

SATURDAY

Farewell to Colonel Blimp

There are good reasons to believe that the old malaise of military incompetence has gone forever. Norman Dixon on new weapons, new attitudes and old prejudices finally set aside

SATURDAY REVIEW

A big hunk of billionaire



Kate Muir finds Hollywood's billionaire muscle man, Arnold Schwarzenegger (above), the human embodiment of the American dream, speaking English little better than an Estonian taxi driver just arrived in New York

SATURDAY REVIEW

Listening is learning

Home Office minister Angela Rumbold attended 15 schools, but her parents' dinner parties were the real centres of learning

SATURDAY REVIEW

Swords and ploughshares

The church has no vicar, but it is open for prayer and the floodlights are on. Paul Heiney finds farmers' war memories stirring

WEEKEND LIVING

The very model of a sales team

The couture shows open in Paris tomorrow, with the models carrying the future of France's luxury goods industry on (or off) their shoulders

SATURDAY REVIEW

Everything fit to be print



Interior designer Nicola Wingate-Saul goes into prints, a trend for the Nineties

WEEKEND LIVING

Hype springs eternal...

Simon Barnes previews Sunday's Super Bowl, when Bills meet Giants in American football's feast of hype

SPORT

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Navy in action: a Lynx helicopter scrambles in the Gulf from HMS London, which had the scuttled minesweeper constantly in its sights yesterday

Iraqi ships sunk in fierce sea battle

By MICHAEL EVANS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

NAVAL forces entered the war "with a vengeance" yesterday, sinking two Iraqi mine-laying vessels. In the air, a Saudi pilot scored the first double kill of the conflict when he shot down two Iraqi jets flying in Saddam Hussein's first air offensive.

Both Britain and America lost planes in action, however. An RAF Tornado was brought down on a bombing mission and its crew were posted as missing. The pilot of the American F16 fighter crippled by Iraqi ground fire baled out into the Gulf and was rescued by helicopter.

The White House said yesterday that the war was likely to last months and that the American people should brace themselves for days when the Iraqi forces scored victories over the allies. John Major told the Conservative backbench 1922 committee that he expected the conflict to last "quite a few weeks".

The Royal Navy saw its first action when a Lynx helicopter from HMS Cardiff spotted a minesweeper acting as a mine-layer along with a landing craft and patrol boat off the Kuwait coast. The Lynx locked its Sea Skua missile on to the ship, but the attack was aborted by the allied naval commander who decided instead to try to take the vessel. The helicopter provided cover for the American-led operation. Three Iraqis were killed and 22 taken prisoner, but the ship was scuttled by the crew. Group Captain Niall Irving told reporters in Riyadh: "If the Sea Skua had been launched, it would have been to devastating effect, with major loss of life."

Cardiff's Lynx was later replaced by one from HMS London, which kept the minesweeper locked in its sights as

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the operation progressed. The Royal Navy has begun its naval operations with a vengeance," Group Captain Irving said.

The second mine-laying vessel was sunk by a Harpoon missile fired from a Saudi ship early yesterday, a Saudi military spokesman said. Meanwhile, elements of the biggest sea-going force since the Korean war began what an American spokesman called an amphibious rehearsal in the Gulf to hone their assault skills.

Saddam's first air offensive was quickly countered when American A-7s aircraft spotted a formation of two MiG-23s and a Mirage F1

armed with Exocet missiles over the northern Gulf. They alerted allied combat air patrol fighters and a Saudi F15 shot down both MiGs after an "intense dogfight" 170 miles from the nearest warships. The Mirage dropped its weapon, which fell harmlessly to ground, and fled to base. The Saudi pilot, named as Captain Ayedil, described his mission as simple: "I just rolled in behind them and shot them down."

The allied bombing campaign was stepped up yesterday with 3,000 sorties, the most in a single day since the war broke out. Canadian and Bahraini aircraft joined in the attack for the first time and



"It was simple": Saudi Arabian Air Force Captain Ayedil after shooting down two Iraqi MiGs in a dogfight yesterday

the French abandoned a previously stated policy of confining operations to Kuwait and sent Jaguar jets into Iraq to bomb armoured units of the Republican Guard. Colonel Greg Pepin, an American military spokesman, said the raids of the past 24 hours, including those on the ground forces, had been highly successful.

The British force is to be boosted by at least six long-range Buccaneer strike aircraft, which will provide a laser targeting capability for the Tornados and Jaguars. Tom King, the defence secretary, said the 1960s aircraft had been specially requested by allied command in Riyadh.

Some of the Tornado GR1s are being assigned to new targets, probably bridges and Iraqi logistical points, and the Buccaneers' laser designating equipment will help to guarantee precision bombing. The Buccaneers will act as target illuminators for the Tornados and Jaguars, which do not have the same laser system.

British sources emphasised that the decision to send the Buccaneers was not connected to the high loss rate suffered by the Tornados. The attacks on airfields using JP233 runway-cratering bombs would continue when necessary.

Although the subsonic Buccaneer is more than 20 years old, it is still regarded as a very capable aircraft. It is normally armed with 600 lb cluster bombs, as well as Martel and Sea Eagle air to surface, stand-off missiles.

Mr King also announced that two more battalions, from the Royal Highland Fusiliers and from the King's Own Scottish Borderers, were being sent out to join the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards, to help in looking after prisoners of war. This means that there will be a total of about 1,700 British soldiers involved in POW duties.

Additional reporting by Jamie Detmer on board HMS London and Martin Fletcher in Washington

Constant fear — and how to live with it

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN SAUDI ARABIA WITH THE 7TH ARMOURD BRIGADE

IN A spick-and-span tent in the forward zone of the British ground forces, the commanding officer of a regiment earmarked to assault the Iraqi front line is talking quietly about the conquest of fear on the battlefield. For Colonel Arthur Denaro, who will lead the Challenger tanks of the Queens Royal Irish Hussars into action, the need to confront, examine and, ultimately, unmask the terrors of combat is a crucial element in preparing his men for the intensity of armoured warfare at close quarters.

"We should actually be talking about battlefield stress," he observes, because shock, fatigue and even disgust are also ever present. "I can't begin to define what courage is, except in terms of being prepared to face the unknown out there in the combat zone." Col Denaro continues: "But I can assure you that if a guy told me he was not frightened about what lies ahead for us, I would be genuinely concerned."

Leaning back in his canvas chair beneath a signed photograph of Field Marshal Montgomery in the desert, Col Denaro spoke of the curiously British reluctance to avoid open discussion of something as intimate as fear.

"I have tried to read as much as possible on the subject, and I talked to experts before the regiment was sent out here, because I firmly believe that the more this subject is talked through among my troops, the less they will worry about not being able to cope when the shooting starts and letting down their comrades."

In a tank regiment, where crews commonly train together for months on end, the level of personal trust and mutual dependence has to be total. "One chap who is not up to scratch at the wrong moment can get the whole unit into trouble."

Continued on page 20, col 6

Riot report to urge more autonomy for prison service

By QUENTIN COWDRY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

PRISON administrators must enjoy greater independence from the Home Office and provide more dynamic leadership, the Woolf enquiry into the 1990 jail riots will recommend. The report will also call for prisoners' pay to be more than doubled and for higher staffing levels at weekends, when many jail disturbances occur.

The Conservatives may enter the next election committed to privatising the 40 or so open prisons and young offenders institutions in Britain, it was also learned yesterday. Tory rightwingers have devised a blueprint which is being backed enthusiastically by Home Office ministers.

Lord Justice Woolf, the enquiry's chairman, has still to complete the report's final draft. He is understood to feel that the prison department should have more autonomy. His conclusions will increase pressure for the department to become an executive agency, with substantial independence from the Home Office. He will argue that this would require more rigorous, open and accountable leadership.

The judge's conclusion on the department's handling of the riot at Strangeways jail, Manchester, has yet to emerge. However, the report is expected to make it clear that Brian Emes, then deputy director of the prison service, erred decisively when he prevented prison officers from attempting to retake the jail by force within the first 48 hours of the riot. The enquiry team was shocked by the apparent indifference that the department displayed towards the media during the 25 days of unrest at Strangeways.

The report, which is due to be presented to ministers within a fortnight and published next month or early in March, will say that present rates of prisoners' pay, ranging between £2.55 and £2.95 a week, encourage idleness, which increases tension.

Lord Justice Woolf is also to challenge Home Office denials that lack of staff contributed towards the riots. While avoiding a recommendation for an increase in manpower, the judge will point out that many governors as well as the Prison Officers' Association believe that staffing levels

have become dangerously stretched at weekends. He is also concerned about the time that inmates spend locked up during weekends.

The report is also expected to recommend that the department moves towards creating a network of "community jails", allowing most inmates to be held near to their homes, and greater opportunity for out-of-cell activities and links with local businesses.

The jail privatisation scheme envisages some 40, mainly low-security prisons being run by private companies. The criminal justice bill, now before Parliament, proposes a very limited privatisation experiment, under which firms would bid to run just one remand centre.

Prunskiene 'seeking asylum'

By MICHAEL BUNYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

KAZIMIERA Prunskiene, the former Lithuanian prime minister and a leader of the republic's independence campaign, has sought political asylum in Switzerland. Lithuanian sources said yesterday.

She applied for asylum on Tuesday, saying her life was in danger in the Soviet Union. She was forced to resign as prime minister two weeks ago after non-Lithuanian communists and radical nationalists supporters of Vytautas Landsbergis, the president, joined forces to oppose her swinging food price rises.

Lithuanian activists in London dismissed as speculation questions over the control of the funds which Mrs Prunskiene raised abroad for Lithuania during last year's economic blockade by Moscow. The funds are in a Stockholm bank in Mrs Prunskiene's name, but several signatures are needed before any money can be removed. Swiss authorities were yesterday unable to confirm that asylum had already been granted.

Latvian volunteers, page 10

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Television goes over the top with war news

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of television viewers have complained to broadcasters about rescheduled and missed programmes since normal schedules were disrupted last week to make way for extended Gulf war news coverage.

BBC1, which has been broadcasting up to eight hours a day of Gulf news in addition to its regular news output, has received more than 1,000 complaints from disgruntled viewers. More than 1,000 have also phoned Thames Television in the past week, angry that their favourite programmes have been shunted for seven hours a day of Gulf news from ITN on the ITV network.

"We've been getting the most abusive calls all day from viewers who will miss Prisoner Cell Block H for the second week in a row," Thames' Roy Addison

said. "It may have a small cult audience, but it is dedicated."

He said more than 500 people had complained about schedule changes by last Friday afternoon. Thames is now receiving about 250 complaints a day.

There is an element of fear in the calls — they are people who would rather not know about the war," Mr Addison said. In a live phone-in poll of viewers carried out by Granada Television's This Morning on Wednesday, 8,000 people said there had been too much television coverage of the war. Only 800 said the broadcasters had got it right.

Central Independent Television has received over 200 complaints about Gulf news overkill, while Granada has heard from just 133 angry viewers. Last weekend, LWT got 30 complaints as a result of cancelled programmes, with another 60 calling in with queries. Sky News, the 24-hour satellite chan-

nel, which has been running a live phone-in twice a week to allow punters to question the pundits, said it had only received complaints from those who felt its broadcasts were "repetitious". A spokesman said many of the 1,000 people who have rung up simply want clarification on "something like Jordanian airspace". Others have told Sky correspondents that their coverage of Saudi attacks was "irresponsible".

A BBC television spokesman said the complaints, recorded on the duty log, represent only "a snapshot" of public opinion. "We have to see the response of the general audience first to know how significant these complaints are," he said. Audience ratings for the first week of the war will be published today.

Fresh controversy is likely to be stirred as BBC bosses cancelled the classic comedy film, Carry On Up The Khyber, at the last minute last night.





# Saddam's box of tricks a match for Powell's hi-tech tools



Powell considers Saddam a worthy military foe

WHILE Colin Powell, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, talks of the "box of tricks" he has brought to the war in the Gulf, President Saddam Hussein has brought a box full of tricks.

Fresh evidence of Iraqi cunning emerges daily. Saddam has considerably complicated the allied search for Iraq's Scud missile launchers by building scores of dummies. From an Italian firm he has bought decoy "tanks" to fool allied bombs and missiles. His biological and chemical weapons facilities operate from buildings with facades like a baby milk factory.

General Powell revealed that the Iraqis were painting runways to make them look damaged so that the allied air offensive would pass them by. At the same time, they were hastily covering up facilities that had been irrevocably destroyed in order to lure allied

warplanes back. Much of the Iraqi air force remains hidden in reinforced bunkers covered with sand to make them invisible from the air.

While President Bush speaks of Saddam with evident personal disgust, America's top commanders talk of the Iraqi leader with the respect they accord a worthy military foe.

Saddam was a resourceful, clever and ingenious enemy, General Powell told reporters this week. "You can be sure that while we are here today, they are in Baghdad trying to figure out workarounds, trying to determine where their weaknesses are and see if they have the capability to fix those weaknesses."

Despite the loss of his defence ministry and intelligence centre, Saddam's command and control networks, linking him to his troops around the country, still

**Fresh evidence of Iraqi cunning and resourcefulness, honed during the eight-year war with the Iranians emerges daily, write Martin Fletcher and Nick Nuttall**

operate with the help of generators. "They are very good at this. They have resilient systems, they have workarounds, they have alternatives, they are still able to command their forces," said General Powell.

Iraq's radar activity had slumped by 95 per cent since the war began, said General Powell, but he refrained from attributing this to the destruction inflicted by the air offensive. The Iraqis were using "clever operational security techniques ... to keep us from knowing exactly what is going on and how badly they have been damaged". Iraq's tactics were

honed during its eight-year war with Iran, and its resourcefulness may be most apparent in the coming days as allied bombers turn their attention to the half-million Iraqi troops occupying Kuwait.

US military experts believe Saddam has used the last five months to construct a system of deep, interlinked, reinforced bunkers for his troops, tanks and supplies that may prove almost impervious to the thousands of tons of explosives that will be raining down. The better the Iraqis survive the onslaught, the higher the allied death toll when

the ground war starts. General Powell is under no illusions. Destroying an army is much harder than destroying fixed targets, he admitted.

"They are spread out. They are dug in. They are hiding. They are not standing out there like a building. They are going to put out dummies to try to deceive you as to their exact locations. They are going to put in primary positions and alternative positions and supplementary positions. They are going to dig in their lines of communications."

The upside for the allies is that decoys and dummies do not in themselves win wars. But as Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, warned on Wednesday: "There may well be surprises ahead for us."

Iraqi forces also could be deploying water-filled bin bags,

corned beef cans, specially painted sheets of paper and cardboard cut-outs to confuse target-seeking and reconnaissance spy satellites.

Yesterday the skies cleared over the Gulf, offering allied commanders the chance to focus US spy satellites on the battlefield to pinpoint installations, tanks and troops and assess airfield damage. The commanders are receiving the data direct on small portable terminals being used for the first time in battle.

However, the information being gleaned thousands of miles above the Earth should be interpreted with caution, British and American experts claim.

"The Iraqis are no fools. There are ways in which you can attempt to fool a satellite which they will know about," said David Rothery of the Earth Sciences department, Open University, Milton Keynes, a satellite imaging expert.

## BATTLE TACTICS

### Land war will rely on skill as much as technology

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WHETHER the allied forces achieve air superiority, air supremacy — "no Iraqi aircraft daring to move" — or freedom of the air over Iraq and Kuwait remains to be seen as the war progresses.

Yesterday's first attempt by three Iraqi fighters to launch Exocet missiles against American and British warships in the north of the Gulf, proves that President Saddam Hussein's air force is by no means out of the reckoning.

There can be no doubt about the success of the allied air war so far, however. The latest electronic jamming equipment, laser-guided bombs and missiles, the US navy's phenomenal Tomahawk cruise missile, and the skills of the allied air crews, have all helped to support the Western argument that high technology can overcome brute force.

But the allied commanders will not be able to place such reliance on technology when the ground war begins. While weapons such as the new multiple launch rocket system are capable of directing massive fire with great accuracy, tactics and an ability to integrate the allied ground offensive to maximum effect will play as important a part in the forthcoming battle.

Among British equipment, never tested in combat, are the new Plarman trunk communications system, the Challenger tank and the Warrior armoured infantry fighting vehicle. The older generation M109 and M110 artillery guns have also never been fired in conflict, although their capabilities are well-proven.

Some of the equipment that has been given to Britain's 1st Armoured Division was used in combat for the first time in the Falklands conflict in 1982, where it performed well. The equipment included the Rapier anti-aircraft system, shoulder-launched Javelin anti-aircraft missiles, and the Milan anti-tank weapon, although it was used in the Falklands for "bunker-clearing".

The Americans have a whole range of weapons that face their debut, such as the M1A1 Abrams tank and the army tactical missile system (ATACMS). The much-vaunted AH64 Apache attack helicopter was first used in the 1989 invasion of Panama, but the threat from the ground was mini-

mal in comparison to the Iraqi firepower assembled in Kuwait.

The allied air campaign has so far been threatened by ground artillery and missile fire, but not to any significant degree by the Iraqi air force. Having the freedom of the skies for long periods has allowed the allied bombers to release their weapons with relative impunity. Although the RAF Tornados have suffered more losses than other allied pilots, the number of lost fighters is remarkably low when compared with the thousands of sorties completed since January 17.

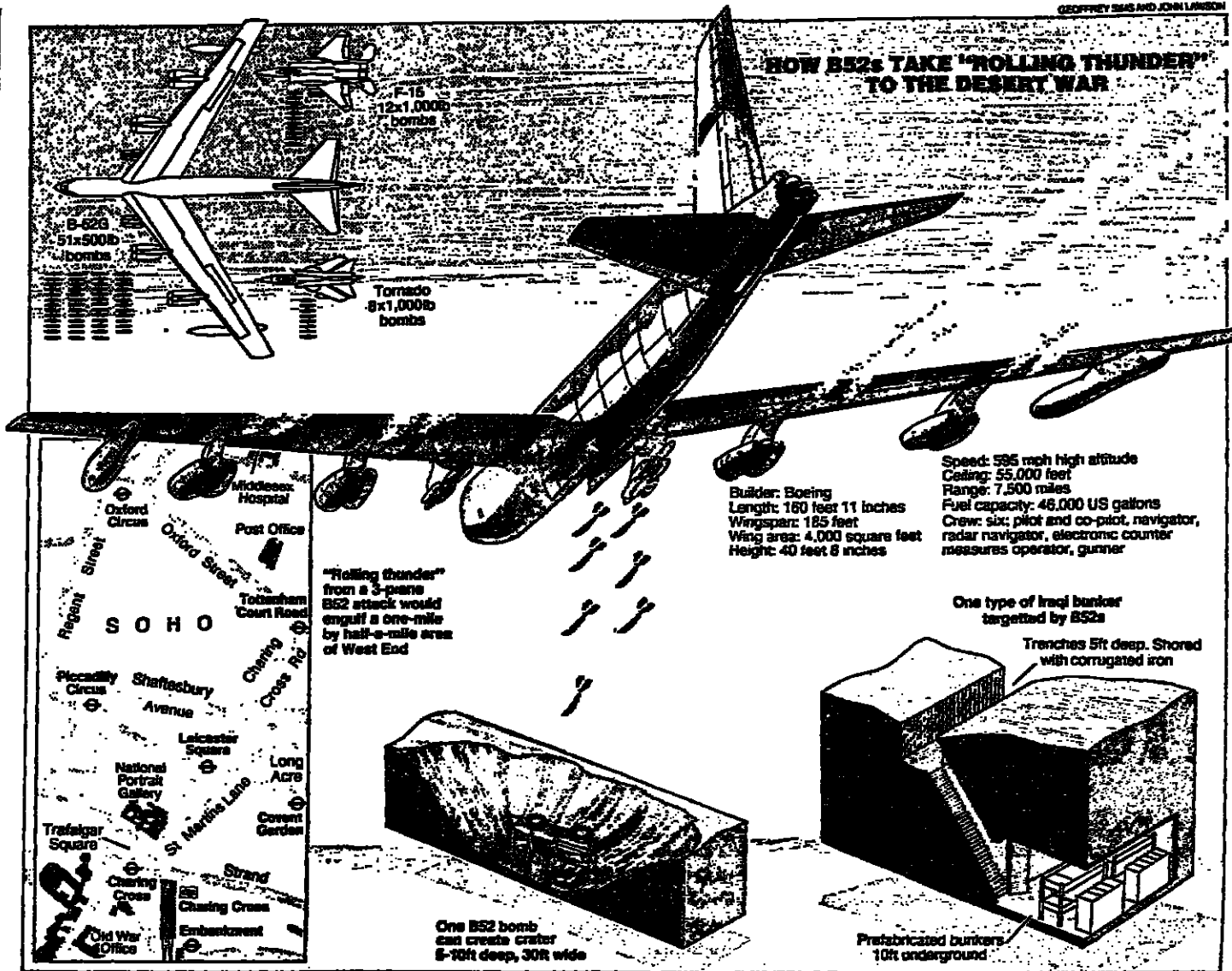
However, one American defence expert has been quoted as saying: "The ground is a much more difficult environment for electronic weapons to operate in effectively. There is more clutter, more hiding places."

The Iraqis, who have had more than five months to prepare their defensive positions, have also incorporated many terrain features in their defences. The Iraqi forces have positioned their western defence line behind the wadi, the local name for a dry ravine or a valley, that runs north from the Saudi city of Hafr al-Batin along the western Kuwait/Iraq border. The ravine varies in width from one to five miles. On Kuwait's eastern coast, narrow beaches and heavy concrete seaside structures give little room for manoeuvre and provide the Kuwaiti capital some protection from a direct assault.

The United States has not fought a desert battle since 1943, when it faced Rommel's German Afrika Korps. The Iraqi army, too, is untested in desert warfare. Its 1980-88 war with Iran was fought mostly on marshes or mountains, but it did involve troops digging in, a tactic Iraq adopted again as soon as it invaded Kuwait.

If the allied bombing campaign, now switched to Iraqi armour and infantry in Kuwait, fails to dislodge the three echelons of dug-in forces and falls short of eliminating the fighting ability of the eight Republican Guard divisions spread out south of Basra in Iraq, an allied ground offensive would be the only way of persuading Saddam's troops from coming out of their concrete and sand bunkers to face the opposition.

Leading article, page 13



AIR POWER/THE B52

## Flying antique that softens defences

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SATURATION bombing of the Iraqi Republican Guard, designed to soften up defences before an allied land attack, has focused attention on the oldest war plane in the Gulf war, the B52 bomber. America is flying 28 of the still menacing B52s, in a series of sorties that rival the "rolling thunder" bombing missions of the Vietnam war.

The plane's ability to unload large quantities of high explosive on troop concentrations is unmatched, though analysts disagree how effective this will prove against entrenched infantry and armour.

The Republican Guard units, the best disciplined and most

professional in the Iraqi army, have been singled out for attack. The units are believed to be dispersed in southern Iraq and northern Kuwait, behind the front lines.

The guard consists of eight divisions of 14,000 men each: three armoured divisions, four infantry divisions and another devoted to special operations.

The hope is that if the morale of the guard can be broken, it will quickly affect the rest of the Iraqi army. The B52s are flying in formations of three at heights of six or seven miles, carrying up to 51 bombs of either 500lb or 750lb. At that height they cannot be seen or heard, and the first Iraqi

forces know is when the bombs, released simultaneously, detonate and create a swathe of destruction half a mile wide and up to a mile long. Major Dick Cole, of the US Air Force, says: "It's like rolling thunder. It has a great psychological effect. You scare the hell out of them."

By comparison with high-tech weapons such as the Patriot missile defence system, the B52 is a flying antique. Engineering contracts were placed in 1946 and the first prototype flew in April 1952. In the 1950s the B52 was the mainstay of Strategic Air Command, designed to fly long-distance raids with nuclear weapons high over the Soviet Union. The

B52's immense wings, more than 185ft across, have wheels near the tips to prevent them dragging along the ground under the weight of the aircraft's eight engines. As the plane accelerates down the runway, its wings appear to flap, flexing like some prehistoric creature. The men who fly the B52 call it Buff ("big ugly fat fellow", some say) and regard it with a mix of affection and despair. Scrawled across the control panel of one B52 I was saw was the message: "Why should I work? Nothing else does."

Many of the 744 B52s that were built have been cannibalised for spares for the 247 still in service, while the interiors of the B52G models in the Gulf bear little relation to the original aircraft. Earlier versions could carry twice the bomb loads, but much of the space is now taken by banks of computers designed to increase bombing accuracy.

In Vietnam, where many were shot down, the planes were flown in formation with regular intervals between them, which made them easier for the North Vietnamese anti-aircraft batteries. That mistake is not being made this time, a US air force official said yesterday. So far, no B52s have been lost in the Gulf.

Some of those flying were built in the late 1950s, when the G variant was first produced, but all that remains of the original plane is the airframe. Many other parts have been modernised or added, to keep the aircraft competitive in modern warfare.

## Carpet bombing tactic questioned

By MICHAEL EVANS

THE opening shot of the war with Iraq was a 2,000lb bomb dropped squarely into the AT & T building in Baghdad by an American F117A stealth fighter. A week later the focus is on the mighty B52 bomber, as it carpet bombs Republican Guard positions in southern Iraq.

But how effective is saturation bombing on ground troops? High-altitude bombing by B52s had a devastating effect on the population of Hanoi in December 1972 during the Vietnam war. Yet the B52 did not play a war-winning role in Vietnam. Nor did "softening-up" bombing destroy German

or allied trench defences in the first world war.

The impact of carpet bombing has caused much dispute in America. The CIA and air force intelligence are convinced air bombardment will cause havoc among the Republican Guard divisions, even though they are concealed in defensive positions. Others, such as the US Defence Intelligence Agency, are less optimistic.

However, the B52s in the Gulf are different aircraft from their Vietnam days. The weapon load is more sophisticated, including some rocket-propelled bombs

which can be guided to their targets. The B52 is also able to carry out low-level as well as high-level bombing, and with a new highly accurate navigation system, it can approach the target from a circuitous route. The plane can carry either eighteen 2,000lb bombs or fifty-one 500lb bombs. The optional guided bomb is equipped with a television that sends pictures back to the plane as it homes in on the target.

Mark Lambert, editor of *Jane's All the World's Aircraft*, supports the argument that carpet bombing by today's B52s would have an enormous impact on Iraqi troops.

## AIR POWER/THE BUCCANEER

### Veteran campaigner called up to spot targets

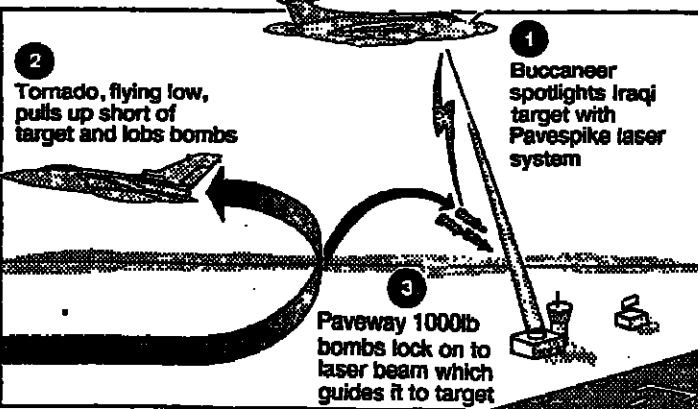
By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE RAF yesterday called up one of its most venerable operational aircraft to help the latest Tornado strike jets hit their targets more accurately.

The Buccaneer, which first flew in 1958 and is rapidly approaching the end of its operational life, is to be flown urgently to the Gulf to pinpoint Iraqi air bases and supply dumps with a laser on which the bombers can then drop their guided weapons.

The defence secretary, Tom King, yesterday said that "half a squadron" of Buccaneers — probably seven aircraft — would be sent to the Gulf as soon as possible.

The last remaining two operational squadrons of Buccaneers — designated S2Bs — are based in Lossiemouth in Scotland and are



Defence by Portsmouth Aviation. The system, which was originally designed to be used by the Buccaneers against ships, has been identified as ideal for use in the Gulf war.

In future raids the Buccaneer will go in first, flying at just below the speed of sound, to the area to be attacked, picking up the target with the help of its Ferranti inertial navigation system.

Once over the target it then shines the Paveway on the particular spot to be attacked and locks on while Tornados or Jaguars flying a few minutes behind come in low and lob their bombs towards the target from several miles distant.

The Paveway has a sensor in its nose which locks on to the laser (an acronym for light amplification by stimulated emission of

radiation) and follows the beam unerringly to the target. Meanwhile, the Tornados or Jaguars, which have fired their weapons, can pull up and fly away at high speed to escape attack by enemy anti-aircraft fire.

Just as the Vulcan bomber had to wait until the last moments of its life to see action in the Falklands war, the Buccaneer is almost certain to be scrapped soon after it returns from its missions in the Gulf.

It was regarded as one of the mainstays of both the Navy and the RAF, capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear weapons and establishing itself as a favourite among pilots.

Although now obsolete, its distinctive shape has become well known at both navy and air force stations over the past 30 years.

## ALLIED FORCES

**SORTIES:** More than 15,000 allied air missions flown since the start of the war. 8,000 of them on combat missions.

**LOSSES:** Fifth RAF Tornado GR-1 fighter bomber reported lost to enemy fire. Takes total Tornado losses to six. Pilot of US F-16 bales out safely over Gulf after being shot down. Brings American aircraft losses to 15 and allied aircraft losses to 23. Thirty allied military personnel now dead or missing, including 14 Americans and ten Britons.

**CLAIMS:** Two Iraqi fighters, reported to be Mig 23s, are shot down by a Saudi F-15 warplane in attack on allied warships. A third Iraqi Mirage F-1 fighter-bomber flees after dropping Exocet missile. Forty-three Iraqi aircraft destroyed since start of war, including 19 shot down. Royal Navy Lynx helicopters from HMS Cardiff and HMS London join attack on Iraqi minesweeper, landing craft and patrol boat off Kuwaiti coast. Three Iraqis killed and 22 captured. Takes total of Iraqis killed to 48. Weather lifts gliding allied bombing missions. France says its airforce raided Iraq for the first time attacking Republican Guards on Iraq-Kuwait border. Britain to send up to eight Buccaneer fighter-bombers and two more battalions to Gulf. Italy said Iraq still has some 600 combat planes and 200 attack helicopters unharmed.

## IRAQI FORCES

**IRAQI CLAIMS:** 231 Iraqis killed in air and missile attacks. 172 allied warplanes (three of them yesterday) and 36 missiles shot down by Iraqi fighters. Saddam Hussein visits frontline military commanders and says Iraq's superior willpower and patience will bring victory. Iraq said Japan's pledge to pay \$9 billion to war effort had made it an enemy.

## ALLIED WAR AIMS

**UNITED NATIONS:** Security Council resolution 678 authorises Kuwait's allies to "use all necessary means" to uphold previous resolutions calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of its legitimate government. Resolution 678 calls on the nations assisting Kuwait to "restore international peace and security in the area". Under international law the coalition parties have an "inherent right" to come to the defence of a friendly nation like Kuwait. Article 51 of the UN Charter says this right can be exercised "until the security council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace of security".

**UNITED STATES:** Announcing the outbreak of hostilities, President Bush said: "Our goal is not the conquest of Iraq. It is the liberation of Kuwait." He added, however, that the US was determined to knock out Saddam's nuclear bomb potential and to destroy his chemical weapons facilities.



## Correspondents in the war zone report on the progress of Operation Desert Storm

CONFLICT AT SEA

### Saudi pilot shoots down two Iraqi planes in dogfight

FROM JAMIE DETTMER ON BOARD HMS LONDON

TWO Iraqi jets were shot down yesterday afternoon after attempting to mount the first direct air assault of the Gulf war on allied naval forces.

Saudi Arabia said one of its pilots shot down both fighters over Saudi waters. It was the first time in the conflict that an Arab pilot had shot down a fellow Arab. A Saudi military spokesman told reporters two Saudi F15s took part in the dogfight, but one pilot was responsible for both kills. The mission was indicative of the increased role being played by the Saudis, and it coincided with the first air operations being flown by Bahraini air force aircraft.

Reports about the composition of the attacking formation were confused, but a British military briefing officer in Saudi Arabia said that a Mirage armed with an Exocet anti-ship missile had jettisoned the weapon and fled. Two escorting MiG23s had been

shot down. Both Iraqi planes were tracked from Iraq by allied radar. Action stations were called on British war ships at 12.31pm local time (9.31am GMT).

It was not clear whether the pilot was releasing the missile in his effort to escape from interceptors or whether he was firing at a surface target. The jets were not within Exocet range of the ships when they were, in naval jargon, "splashed". British naval officers were heartened by the shooting-down of the aircraft. At the start of the war, Iraq had about 100 of the formidable French Mirages, 31 of which are believed to have been equipped with Exocets for maritime action. Iraqi Mirage F1s are considered the most dangerous for allied ships.

The shooting-down of the jets further emphasises allied air superiority. Military planners are now keen to achieve total air domination and the destruction of

the newest and most threatening planes in the Iraqi air force. It is suspected that the bulk of the Iraqi Mirage F1s has been protected from the aerial bombardment by being kept in hardened shelters.

Earlier yesterday, there were unconfirmed reports that an Iraqi fast patrol boat had sunk after hitting an Iraqi mine. There was satisfaction in the operations room of the HMS London at the own goal.

Allied navies in the Gulf face a number of threats. Their "search and destroy" air missions have been continuing for several days in the northwestern Gulf. Lynx helicopters from the British destroyers, HMS Cardiff and HMS Gloucester, have been involved in the hunt for Iraqi fast patrol boats. "The Lynxes are working in co-operation with the Americans on search and attack missions in the northern Gulf," said Captain Philip Wilcox, commanding officer of the Gloucester. "They are looking for Iraqi surface craft in order to make sure they are neutralised before they become a threat to ourselves."

Soviet and Yugoslav-built patrol boats form the bulk of the Iraqi navy. At the start of the war, Baghdad had 30. Of these, the seven Soviet-built Osa class boats are considered the most dangerous. Each is equipped with four surface-to-surface Styx missiles. None of the other Iraqi boats carries missiles, although three Yugoslav-made PB 90s are equipped with two twin 128 mm mobile rocket launchers.

Although the Styx missiles could cause considerable damage to a frigate or destroyer, they are considered quite old weapons that can be shot down with much more ease than the newer Exocets. Styx missiles can be ejected away from their target by electronic jamming. However, naval planners assume that the Iraqis also have control of eight modern, fast missile craft captured from the Kuwaitis during the August invasion. The Kuwaiti boats have a top speed of just over 40 knots, and are capable of carrying Exocets.

The Iraqis possess only one frigate, the Im Marjid, a Yugoslav-built vessel acquired in 1980. It has four launchers for sea-skimming Exocets. Four Lupo class frigates and six Assad class corvettes were ordered from Italy during the Iran-Iraq war. But the Rome government impounded them after they had been completed.

Iraqi mines are also considered a threat to allied naval forces. Commodore Christopher Craig, the senior British naval officer in the Middle East, said: "Iraqi mines have been placed in the Gulf area and already a fair number have been found and destroyed. More are going to be found and we are not in the slightest complacent about the capability." But he said allied shipping was not being constrained by the presence of mines.



Diggers drawn: two American marines practising hand-to-hand combat in Saudi Arabia this week. The marines are also preparing for desert trench warfare

### 254 Iraqi soldiers desert to Turkey

Iscitlik - Turkish military authorities said yesterday that 254 Iraqi soldiers have deserted and crossed the border to Turkey since the outbreak of war. The troops are being detained in a refugee camp at Hakkari, in the southeast, with 111 civilians who have fled from American raids on northern Iraq (Bill Frost writes).

Defence analysts in Ankara said the deserters would have been questioned by Turkish and American military intelligence officers about Iraqi troop formations in the border area, where there are known to be missile sites, chemical weapons factories and large concentrations of armour and artillery. The soldiers would also be asked about the number of mobile Scud launchers in northern Iraq.

The Iraqi soldiers and the refugees are thought to have travelled through the mountainous border area as the normal crossing point at Habur was mined ten days ago. A military attaché said that the Iraqi soldiers were probably completely demoralised by the raids launched from the Nato base at Incirlik. Up to 50 American aircraft have taken part in each mission.

### Iraqi ambassador

Britain has frozen a request, made by Iraq before the Gulf war, to replace its ambassador in London. John Major told the House yesterday that Azmi Shafiq al-Salhi, who arrived in Britain in 1989, would be leaving "very shortly". He said the government was considering reducing the remaining number of Iraqi diplomats.

### Red Cross protest

Geneva - America has protested to the International Committee of the Red Cross over statements from some of its staff that publishing pictures of Iraqi POWs was like exhibiting allied pilots on Iraqi television. Both contravene the Geneva Convention, which says POWs must be shielded from public curiosity, a committee spokesman said.

### Militant arrested

Amman - Jordanian police arrested a militant Islamic leader after he urged Muslims to attack the interests of countries fighting Iraq, his group said. Atta Abu Rashed, spokesman for the underground Islamic Tahrir (Liberation) party, was whisked away by security officers minutes after emerging from a press conference, party sources said. (Reuters)

### Gas-mask births

Two Israeli women, wearing gas masks, gave birth to babies in hospital during an Iraqi Scud missile attack last week. All medical staff present also wore gas masks. The babies were placed in gas-proof incubators. An account of the emergency appears in *The Lancet*, the British medical journal, by obstetricians at the Kaplan hospital, Rehovot.

MAN IN THE NEWS

### An eloquent link between battle and the media

FROM LIN JENKINS IN BAHRAIN

GROUP Captain David Henderson, commander of the RAF detachment at Muhraq air base, is a rarity among military men. He understands the role of the media in modern warfare.

At ease in front of the cameras and the probing reporters, he delivers daily briefings in a relaxed, thoughtful and authoritative manner, never lapsing into forces' jargon.

At 42 he is young for such an important posting, but the air crews he commands believe he has been earmarked for higher things. One said: "He is well liked, good at his job and cares about us. We come first and we need that here."

His ability to speak fluently on the progress of the war without disclosing details of tactics, peppering his remarks with witty asides, has led to daily appearances on television. When asked how it felt to be commanding more air time than Terry Wogan, he replied: "It would be nice to be paid as much."

His talents were tested when the base lost three Tornados in three days. In public he was refreshingly open and eloquent about his men's feelings. In private he set about restoring morale among his men and devising new tactics to avoid such heavy losses during night-time raids on enemy airfields. His efforts would appear to have been a success.

Group Captain Henderson's detachment may be small compared with those of the United States. Yet it has perhaps one of the most dangerous tasks of the war to date, that of low-flying missions into heavily defended airfields in Iraq and Kuwait.

He accepts that it will attract interest. Saturation coverage of the war is a reality, whether he likes it or not. The psychological impact on millions of television viewers of a few Scud missiles is enormous. So if he can help redress the balance by allowing journalists onto his air base, then he will.

"CNN exists and will do what it sees to be its job and the military must get on with its job. Each will have an effect on the other. Somehow we have both got to learn to live with what we are doing," he said.

Having joined the RAF as a Cranwell cadet in 1966, he first became a helicopter pilot and flew

Wessex helicopters from Odiham and then with the Royal Navy in the naval air commando squadron operating from the commando carriers HMS Bulwark and HMS Albion and the assault ship HMS Fearless.

Group Captain Henderson made the unusual change to fast jets in 1973 which ended with a posting to Coltishall where he flew Jaguars. He remained there for two tours, the second as a flight commander after his promotion to squadron leader in 1976. In 1980 he moved to the Ministry of Defence and two years later attended the advanced staff course at the RAF staff college.

He was promoted to wing commander and subsequently given the command of No 14 Squadron at Brüggen, again flying the Jaguar. He remained in Germany as personal staff officer to the commander-in-chief RAF Germany as commander, second allied tactical air force. In 1987, on promotion to group captain, he returned to Britain to command RAF Marham until July last year. He then moved to the Ministry of Defence to take up his present appointment, retaining his close links with RAF Marham, from where many of his team in Bahrain come.

He has been awarded a Queen's Commendation for valuable service in the air and an OBE. He and his wife, Jennie, have two daughters and when he finds the time he enjoys sicking and running.



DHAHRAN

### Grim stay for press in frontline hotel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN EASTERN SAUDI ARABIA

THE rust-coloured remains of a Patriot anti-missile missile are now displayed in the heavily guarded lobby. The Dhahran International Hotel has joined the ranks of hostilities, not forgetting the mythical Hotel Liberty in Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*, which have become war coverage headquarters.

In a list which includes the Continental Palace in Saigon, the Intercontinental in Amman and the Commodore in Beirut, it is probably the only one that has been subject to strict Islamic restrictions: the most potent drink available being "Saudi champagne", a glutinous mix of Perrier and apple juice topped up with mint leaves.

Such is the pace of modern journalism that far from being filled with bearers ready to carry dispatches in cleft-sticks, the corridors are crammed with thick cables which snake to an outside plywood deck of 12 satellite

dishes. It was from here that the first film of the now almost nightly battles between Patriot and Scud missiles was relayed. "If there was any real glamour in war reporting, it has finally been destroyed by this conflict," said one American correspondent, a veteran of the Vietnam and 1982 Israel-Lebanon wars. He was speaking as journalists and military officers were making yet another dash for the hotel bomb shelter where wearing gas masks is mandatory and guests sit receiving orders from the German pastry chef through a loudhailer.

The hotel's distinguishing feature is its position close to the runway and fuel storage tanks of the largest air base in Saudi Arabia - a main target for Iraq's Scuds and perhaps of its air force. Probably no member of the 500-strong press corps allowed visas would have chosen the International to stay in. But its second-floor ballroom and banquet suites have become the headquarters of the Joint Information Bureau where US and British

officials co-ordinate coverage of the war. Relations between the Westerners and Saudi officials have grown more strained as the war has progressed. The Saudi government's influence in banning what might prove the last church service for British troops before the land war is launched caused particular bitterness.

On Monday a Saudi soldier's weapon accidentally discharged, and a crew from America's ABC Television network began filming. A Saudi colonel grabbed the cameraman and tried to remove his videotape. Sam Donaldson, a senior ABC news personality, intervened. "We are ready to defend your country - but up to a point," he declared. "Don't you dare strike an American newsmen."

In any other war the incident would have been elaborated on in the hotel bar. Here it was discussed instead over mint tea and Pepsi in the International's aptly named "Sand Coffee Shop."

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# Bush reaps rich reward as America puts faith in patriotism

THE drama of war is changing attitudes across America. Old-fashioned patriotism, traditional allies, and cautious trust in authority have pushed aside partisanship, new diplomatic thinking and "vote the crooks out".

President Bush has grown in stature as national leader, and his standing in the opinion polls has risen. His past as a navy pilot, once dismissed as a minor part of his "too-good-to-be-true" curriculum vitae, is now seen as the beginning of a "hero's life", as one reporter put it this week.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State and the architect of clever policies for favouring Germans over Britons, is almost nowhere to be seen. Britain is now America's best friend on earth. Israel, too, has shown that traditional allies are

the ones who stand by you when the going gets tough, even after a bitter family row. In Los Angeles, one of the main morning chat shows showed pictures of the portly American envoy, Lawrence Eagleburger, picking his way with a cane through the wreckage of a Scud attack in Tel Aviv, and flicking a V-for-victory sign to the crowd in the best Churchillian style.

Some things do not change. In Washington, reporters complain about the military's newest ways of saying nothing. One day the Pentagon spokesman says he is "fuzzing", the next day "fogging" and the next "vaguely". As one bemused defence specialist put it, "the only thing new we got today is another word for not telling the truth".

Beyond the capital, there is scant sympathy for the news-

The start of the Gulf war has refocused US attention on traditional values and the strength of tried and tested friendships, Peter Stothard reports from Washington

starved journalist. A wave of patriotism is washing across the country. A few days ago, student demonstrations in favour of the war were small and insignificant. Now they are big events, avidly covered by news organisations looking to avoid the charges of bias and anti-Americanism that hit them after the Vietnam war.

In the White House, there is a sense of quiet satisfaction. The president is said to be calm and serious, determined to strike the right balance between letting the generals do the soldiering and staying in command. His tactical

sense tells him that he must keep his authority in reserve. Mr Bush understands that today's strong domestic support for the conflict may evaporate once the land war begins. "We will soon need not only an Operation Desert Storm but an Operation American Storm," said one Republican party aide, looking ahead anxiously to the days of rising casualty reports.

The president's advisers think that they are well prepared for that. Wednesday's confident performance by General Colin Powell, the chairman of the joint

chiefs of staff, before a tense press conference encouraged hopes that he will strike an equally solid note when there is worse news to report. "He said to reporters 'trust me' when he couldn't give them real information, and they didn't laugh," said one admiring aide. "They looked as though they really did trust him".

The performance of America's hi-tech weapons has raised pride in American technical achievement to levels not seen since the Apollo missions to the moon. Defence workers, long accustomed to jibes about extravagance and inefficiency, are basking in national acclaim. Patriot missiles against Scuds are compared to the clash of rival baseball teams — Scuds 3, Patriots 5.

Even happier are the defence contractors and consultants,

whose annual Washington dinner this week was a celebration of success in the sand. The "beltway bandits", so-called after their headquarters on the Washington equivalent of the M25, from which they preyed for years upon taxpayers' dollars, now want to be known as the "heroes of the techno-revolution". Lobbyists for the Strategic Defence Initiative, whose research projects gave birth to the Patriot, are looking forward to new bounty after two anxious years of cuts.

The only spectre at the feast was the familiar face of Professor Paul Kennedy, who always likes to pop up when he thinks that Americans are enjoying themselves too much.

Warning to his theme of "imperial overstretch", and comparing American foreign adventurism with that of decadent

17th-century Spain, he gave a loud warning of the dangers of reviving national self-esteem with foreign wars — especially wars that are fought on distant battlefields, with borrowed money, and at the expense of genuine esteem-enhancing projects at home.

Yet few Americans see George Bush as King Philip IV of Spain or Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, as the Count of Olivares. Not many more see the president and his men as they saw Lyndon Johnson's team, picking out North Vietnamese targets on the cabinet table as though they were playing a board game.

America is afraid for its soldiers and airmen, yes. But the still confidence of a great endeavour going well is the dominant mood as the Gulf war goes into its second week.

## ISRAEL

### Genscher tries to mend rift caused by Iraq weapons deal

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

AS ISRAELI anger mounts over the role of German companies in helping Iraq to develop chemical and biological weapons and to adapt Scud B missiles for longer range firing, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, yesterday paid a goodwill visit to Israel to try to repair relations between the two countries. He also offered Israel "humanitarian aid" of \$165 million.

The question of German attitudes to Israel and the Jews is a highly emotive one for Israelis. Although it is accepted that the German government bears no relationship to the Nazi regime of 50 years ago, the fact that German firms have enabled Iraq to develop poison gas that could be used against Jews in Israel, as well as against allied troops in the Gulf, has aroused widespread disgust.

Combined with Germany's low profile in the Gulf war and the strength of the German peace movement, which is regarded in Israel as anti-American rather than anti-war, German military and technical aid to Iraq has wiped out much of the goodwill created by the payment of German reparations to Israel over the past 30 years.

On the eve of Herr Genscher's arrival, Israelis wearing gas masks demonstrated in the centre of Jerusalem, protesting that "Jews are once again threatened with asphyxiation because of Germany". One leaflet handed out said: "Once again the German public is claiming it did not know. German scientists, chemists and

engineers have followed Saddam's orders and have helped to tighten every screw in his war machine. Achtung Deutsche gas!"

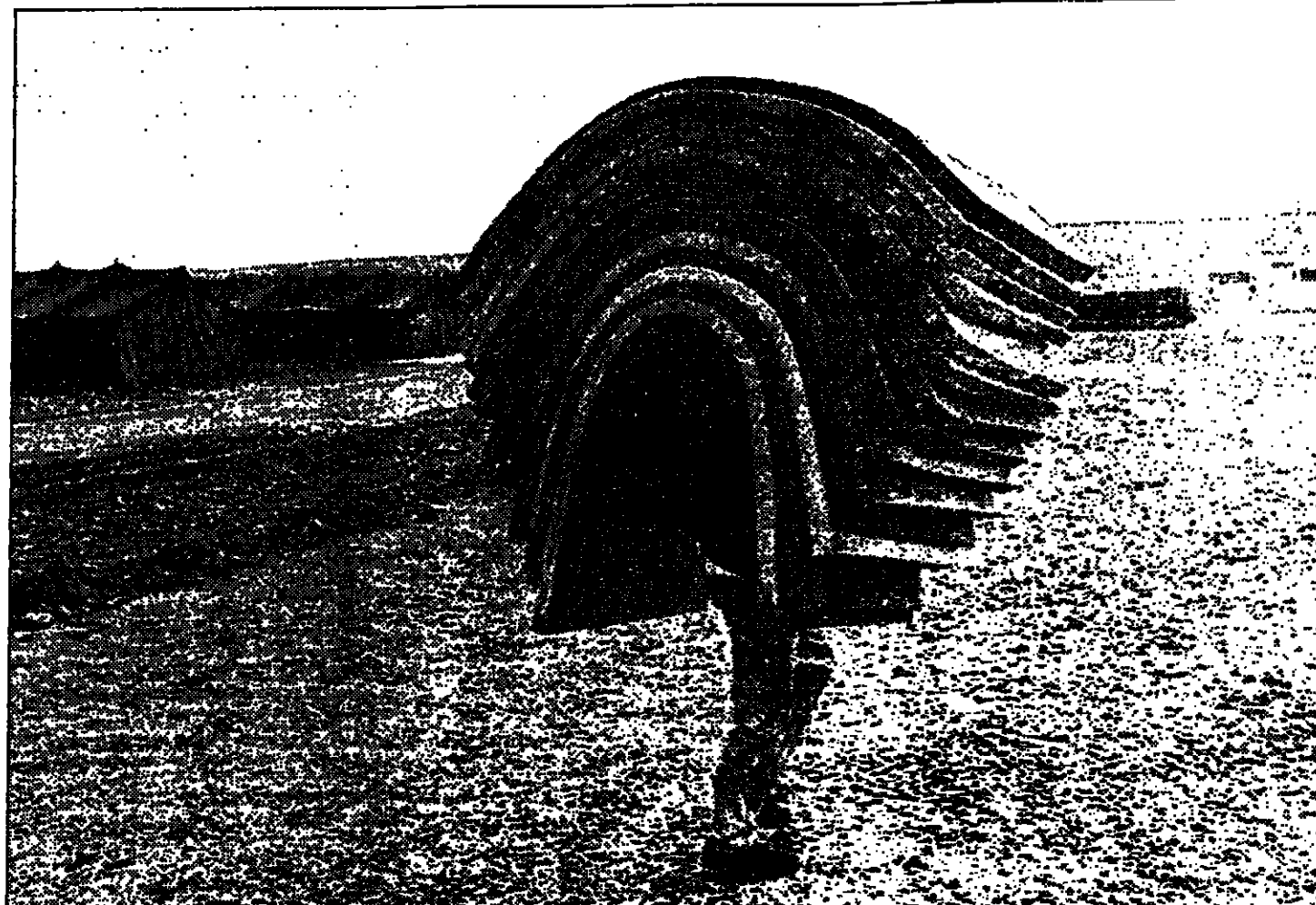
In the face of such bitter protests Herr Genscher, whose own anti-Nazi record is beyond reproach, assured David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, that Germany stood shoulder to shoulder with Israel in the face of Iraq's missile attacks and was doing its utmost to prevent any further supplies of technology by German "merchants of death" to Iraq.

Accompanied by Mr Levy, Herr Genscher toured bomb sites in the Tel Aviv area and expressed Germany's sympathy for those injured and praised Israeli restraint for not retaliating.

Eliahu Ben-Elissar, chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee, said however that Israel would never forgive Germany, France and Italy for having supplied Iraq with non-conventional weapons. "French, German and Italian knowhow helped Saddam Hussein to develop chemical weapons," he said.

● BONN: President Oskar von Lilius yesterday condemned Germany as a rich but unreliable ally that had shifted its responsibilities in the Gulf.

He told Germany's ARD television network that Turkey was under threat of an Iraqi attack by chemical and biological weapons that German firms had supplied. But Germany, protected by Nato for 40 years from Russia, was now unwilling to follow alliance rules and stand by Turkey in its time of need.



Preparing for bed: one of the refugees stranded in the Hilal 1 camp in Jordan carries a bundle of foam mattresses to his tent as he comes to the end of another day of wondering how long it will be before he will be able to return home

## JORDAN

### Refugees slip down list of priorities

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN HILAL 1 CAMP, JORDAN

IN HILAL 1, a matrix of hundreds of square frame army green and light blue tents marked out in the featureless desert about an hour's drive east of Amman, there is only one question to which everyone wants an answer.

From 14-year-old Somalis like Abdul Aziz in his orange and blue striped jumper to the women of his mother's generation, perhaps from Yemen or Bangladesh who are too shy to tell their name, the question is the same: "When will we go home? Does the visitor know how long we have been here

and is there anything he can do to remind the Indian or Sudanese governments that we are still here?"

"We have little food, just what we are given by the Red Cross, almost no money and not enough clothes to keep us warm at night. Sometimes we get small amounts of food, sometimes only sardines, milk and bread," said Abdul Aziz, whose father worked as an engineer in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion. "In the afternoon when the sun is warm we play football and my father plays cards, but we cannot take the cold any more — we are very, very cold."

Since the outbreak of war just over a week ago, the images of refugees, the displaced and homeless in the Gulf, have been superseded by those of American and allied warplanes, of pilots preparing for take-off and of their bombs scuttling down skylights and through doors in nameless Iraqi towns.

Partly because they have failed to materialise in the huge numbers expected of them, the refugees, or persons in transit as someone in Amman called them the other day,

have slipped down the list of priorities as they always do.

But they are still coming in dribs and drabs, all migrant workers from poor Middle East, African or Asian states who took to Kuwait to seek their fortune or, more often, to help their hard-pressed families back home.

It is hard not to feel particular sympathy for the Somalis, trapped between war at home and war abroad, many of whom have lived in this camp since midsummer, and still see no prospect of being able to return home.

Hilal 1 was cold and wet yesterday. The surface of the canvas tents wore a glassy sheen which turned to rising steam as the thick material dried in the sun.

With only 3,400 people in an area capable of housing over 60,000, the place seemed empty. Tall, dark Africans, former cleaners and street sweepers in prewar Kuwait, their heads wrapped in towels, their bodies cloaked in old duffel coats, walked in procession carrying bundles of newly donated foam mattresses. In tent C213 a group of 24 Moroccan stone carvers discussed the prospects for

an early return to Marrakesh amid excitement over rumours that Japan would send five aircraft to Jordan to help move the refugees out.

Baradish Khassem, aged 20, his thin features wrapped in a black and white Palestinian scarf, said he would remember this experience all his life. "It is the first time I have seen this and I am angry with the Americans for doing this," he said.

Baradish and his friend, Khalidoun, had only just started their work in Basra, toiling on a building entitled the Palace of Victory, when the Gulf conflict started last August. They stayed until the Americans started bombing the city last week, when they set off for Baghdad and Jordan.

Khalidoun drew loud encouragement from his colleagues for expressing his admiration for Saddam Hussein — a view shared by almost everyone in the camp, despite the fact that the Iraqi president has contributed considerably to their current misery. "When we go back to Morocco, we might think of fighting on Saddam Hussein's side," he said.

## DIPLOMACY

### Foes keep channels for talks in place

By MICHAEL BINYON  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WAR has overtaken diplomacy as the world's response to President Saddam Hussein. Yet, throughout Europe, at the United Nations and even in Washington, Iraqi ambassadors remain in place. They frequently appear on television to denounce Western "aggression", and are also summoned to be served with official protests.

None is more visible than Abdul Razzak al-Hashimi, the Iraqi ambassador to Paris, who has tirelessly argued his country's case daily before the world's television cameras. Mr al-Hashimi, aged 52, has emerged as the most articulate spokesman of his country, and has left the door open to dialogue despite the war.

But other Iraqi diplomats may be of equal or greater standing at home. Barzan al-Takriti, the ambassador to Geneva, is Saddam's half-brother. He rarely speaks to the press, and has been in Baghdad since the Geneva talks failed.

Abdul Jabbar Omar Thani, ambassador to Bonn since 1987, is another shadowy figure. Also a distant relative of Saddam, he is thought to be a senior figure in Iraqi intelligence and was appointed to oversee Iraq's purchases in Germany of vital components to help set up a chemical weapons facility. He suddenly disappeared from Bonn at the end of July, and was sent to Kuwait where he was once ambassador. There he supervised the eviction of foreign missions from Kuwait.

To the Western public, it seems strange that the Iraqi ambassadors should still be in place. But both Iraq and the West have different reasons for wanting to maintain relations. The West believes it is important to have a direct channel of communication. Iraq's motive is to influence the media coverage, act as spokesmen for Saddam and attempt to stir sympathy for Baghdad's cause.

● STRASBOURG: The European parliament yesterday passed a declaration on the Gulf war, four days after the debate began, exposing deep political divisions (George Brock writes). A large majority finally backed a formula requiring Iraq to fully implement United Nations resolutions, but the wording differed from that used by both the UN and European Community foreign ministers.

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## EGYPT

### Mubarak appeal for reason

FROM MICHAEL KNIFE  
IN CAIRO

WITH concern rising among Arabs about the extent of the damage being done to Iraq by the American-led bombing raids, President Mubarak of Egypt made a fresh call yesterday to President Saddam Hussein to "respond to the sound of reason".

Mr Mubarak said the Iraqi leader could still stop the war, but it appeared he would "rather sacrifice his army and people".

Although most Egyptians support the allies' aim of forcing the Iraqi leader to withdraw his forces from Kuwait, several political figures are beginning to express reservations about the effects of destroying Iraqi military and economic might. Dr Gehad Auda, a leading political and strategic analyst, said the prevailing consensus was that war should not be allowed to result in the destruction of Iraq.

Mr Mubarak's two-hour speech to the Egyptian parliament appeared to be designed, in part, to counteract public criticism of the government's role in the anti-Iraq alliance.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 12

## JAPAN

### Tokyo promises more money

FROM JOANNA PITMAN  
IN TOKYO

JAPAN yesterday responded to America's request that it shoulder 20 per cent of the Gulf war costs — estimated at \$500 million (£255 million) a day — and promised to increase its contribution from \$4 billion to \$13 billion.

The decision came after months of vacillation, which has damaged Japan's image abroad, over the nation's responsibilities in the conflict. The move brought an immediate response from Iraq, which said the decision made Japan an enemy. Rashid al-Rifai, the Iraqi ambassador to Japan, threatened that Baghdad would shoot down Japanese military planes sent to repatriate refugees.

Japan's deliberations are only just beginning. The procurement of funds and the speed with which they will be dispensed remain the thorniest tasks to confront Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister. His more forceful cabinet colleagues, many of whom have the benefit of stronger factional backing, appear to be steering the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The government's plans to dispatch transport planes of the Japanese self-defence forces and to charter civilian aircraft to transport refugees are also expected to draw criticism from opposition parties which are opposed to any form of Japanese assistance in the



Battle cry: Kaifu, front, with a fellow party member shouting "Banzai" in Tokyo yesterday

war. Yet Mr Kaifu is shown on television shaking hands and exchanging smiles with Takako Doi, the leader of the Japan Socialist Party. Many have observed that Miss Doi's performances in the Diet are helping Mr Kaifu out of many tight electoral corners.

Japan depends on the Middle East for 70 per cent of its oil — far more than America's 22 per cent dependency or that of any other nation to send soldiers to the Gulf.

However, it took more than a month of debate and pressure from America before Mr Kaifu

promised \$4 billion — \$2 billion to support the multinational forces and \$2 billion in loans to frontline states affected by economic sanctions against Iraq. Only \$1.9 billion has been sent.

Japan has sent neither troops, nor humanitarian aid workers, and the only Japanese diplomacy immediately before the January 15 deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait was in Asia. Mr Kaifu was touring Korea, and and Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister, was in Peking, discussing Japan's willingness to reopen lines of credit to China.

None of this has so much as even coloured the cheeks of the bureaucrats and businessmen responsible for Japan's economic might. Given their past performance, Japanese businessmen will likely be the first to snuff out opportunities once war ends. When the Iran-Iraq war ended, they blazed the business trail into Iran — but only once there was no risk. This time, the risk of inviting censure, particularly from the Americans, is considerably higher.

● SINGAPORE: Lee Kuan Yew, the former Singapore prime minister and now a senior cabinet minister, said during a visit to Washington that the Japanese would have to find a way of sending troops to the Gulf war or Americans would feel that they were carrying an unfair share of the cost in lives. (Reuters)



## DETAINEES

## Red Cross seeks to improve conditions of arrested Iraqis

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE International Red Cross has urged the government to move Iraqis facing deportation out of two London prisons to institutions offering better conditions, a senior Red Cross official said yesterday.

He added, however, that he believed Britain would treat its war prisoners "by the book" and fully honour the Geneva Conventions.

The call came as Mr Kenneth Baker, the home

secretary, disclosed that since September there had been 160 deportations out of a total Iraqi population of 10,000. The Home Office had earlier estimated that there were 5,000 Iraqis in Britain.

Iraqis still facing deportation are being held at Wormwood Scrubs and Pentonville prisons. Francis Amar, Red Cross delegate general for Europe and North America, said that the organisation had

been promptly notified and given access to the detainees and to two prisoners of war held at a barracks.

A Red Cross group has visited over 60 detainees and made a confidential report to the government. Mr Amar said: "We have made a number of remarks and proposals to improve the situation. One of the suggestions was to move them somewhere better."

According to the Home Office the detainees will soon be moved. One destination could be Full Sutton prison, near York, one of the country's newest maximum security centres. Rolleston camp, Wiltshire, is likely to house POWs.

Iraq has not provided any notification of its prisoners in spite of the presence of 14 Red Cross workers in Baghdad. Asked about the Iraqi decision to televise POWs, Mr Amar said that under the convention on POWs their treatment had not been adequate. All countries involved in the conflict had been reminded of the convention, he said.

On BBC radio yesterday, Mr Baker assured the Iraqi community that there would not be a witch hunt against them and that there was no question of general internment. He said: "The language of the witch hunt comes from Saddam Hussein, not from us. I have to take action when I have advice in the interests of national security, and that I am doing."

Leading article, page 13

## Three wise men to hear appeals

THE Home Office advisory panel of "three wise men" assessing appeals by more than 40 Iraqis and Palestinians facing deportation from Britain has not sat for at least three years.

Faced with the growing number of appeals prompted by the Home Office security operation and the fact that one panel member is also the leading judge in the Birmingham Six appeal, the panel could find the Gulf war over by the time it finishes its business.

The panel, created in 1971 to deal with cases involving national security, hears representations and its advice is not binding on the Home Secretary. When it was formed under new immigration legislation, Reginald Maundling,

then Home Secretary, said appellants would not be allowed legal representation though they could be helped by "a friend to such an extent as the advisers sanction".

The panel would not tell the appellant the grounds for deportation in case he or she gleaned the source of the information, placing an informant at risk. The Home Office does not present witnesses or evidence but past appellants could call evidence.

The present panel heard appeals last autumn from other Iraqis facing deportation. It members are Lord Justice Lloyd, David Neve, a former chairman of the immigration appeals' tribunal and Sir Robert Andrews, a former Home Office and Ulster civil servant.

## PRODUCTION LINES

## Factory meets challenge of desert tank warfare

By PETER DAVENPORT

IN WAR the military forces on the front line make the ultimate sacrifice, but their ability to fight effectively depends greatly on the efforts of a civilian army on the home front. It is a long way from the desert sands of Saudi Arabia to the suburbs of Leeds, but with the decisive land battles still to come in the Gulf war, activities at the Vickers Defence Systems factory which produced the Challenger tank for the British army have moved into higher gear.

Gerald Boxall, the chairman and chief executive of Vickers Defence Systems, said yesterday that after years when the tank had been almost disregarded and criticised there was now an "intense pride" among the workforce that the Challenger was performing well in the desert conditions. He is just back from his second trip to the Gulf, where commanders and crews told him what further requirements or modifications their tanks might need.

The increased effort at Vickers, where 420 Challengers have been produced for the British Army with the last one rolling off the production line in September last year, meant that Christmas holidays and weekends were willingly given up to produce improvement kits of new parts designed to enhance the performance of the tank in the Gulf deserts. The Vickers factories are also producing Challenger armoured repair and recovery vehicles for deployment in the desert. The army has ordered 80 of the vehicles, and ten have already been shipped to the Gulf.

Production lines at the Leeds and Newcastle upon Tyne factories are six months ahead of schedule.

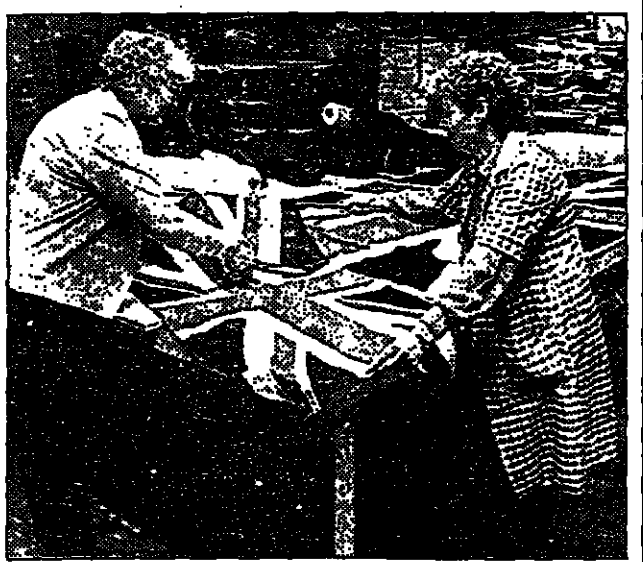
Specialists from Vickers have been out with the tanks in the desert, advising the army on how to ensure maximum operating efficiency, and a second group is flying out this weekend.

Mr Boxall said yesterday that after the invasion of Kuwait on August 2 Vickers contacted the Ministry of Defence and suggested that there were a number of modifications which could make the tanks more suitable for warfare in the desert. The following day Vickers received a list of what the ministry thought would be useful. Every one of the tanks in the Gulf has now been fitted

with an improvement kit which contains, among other items, improved air filtration and electrical equipment. The Leeds factory is in touch with the Gulf and ready to respond to any more demands made by the tank commanders.

Mr Boxall said that criticisms of the Challenger while on service in Germany had annoyed the workers who had built them.

Vickers is confident that the performance of Challenger in desert battles will persuade the government to choose its successor, Challenger 2, rather than the American Abrams M1A1, or Germany's Leopard 11 as the replacement for the British army's aged fleet of Chieftains tanks. A decision is expected with the next few months.



Union Jills: Jessie Beynon, left, and Marion Wilson help put out more flags at Mott and Jones, Swansea, which has doubled its production of union flags

## Democrats' leader has a good war

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

WHEN Paddy Ashdown became leader of the Liberal Democrats and spoke in the Commons there used to be scornful cries of "killer", a reference to his service past as the youngest ever commander in the Special Boat Squadron.

Mr Ashdown's military past, which, to the chagrin of some aides, he has never sought to exploit politically, is now investing his comments in the Commons with an extra authority and ensuring that he is "having a good war".

Minority party leaders always have a hard time establishing themselves. Mr Ashdown has had a long haul up after the trauma his party went through in the wake of the last election. He was just

beginning to make his mark in the Commons when the Liberal Democrats scored their breakthrough in the Eastbourne by-election. However, both advances were swept aside as the Tory leadership contest took over the media.

Now the Gulf war, and the consensus politics it has spawned, have given Mr Ashdown the chance to establish his credentials nationally before fighting his first election as leader. To the delight of the Liberal Democrats they are gaining almost equal air time to the Labour party.

Determined that they must have clear positions whenever hard choices were faced, Mr Ashdown, whose Yeovil constituency keeps

him in touch with many service families, put the Gulf war on the agenda for the party's policy committee meeting before January 15 and won their support to back the war.

He rang round all his MPs and the Liberal Democrats have had 19 out of their 20 in the voting lobbies in support of government policy, with only Sir Cyril Smith, who also backs the war, an absentee. Mr Ashdown, who has been briefed on privy council terms by the prime minister, has been resolute in support of military action and has not quibbled over detail, believing that is not the job of opposition parties in wartime.

He said from the start that it would take time to draw

the "venomous sting in the tail" of the Iraqi war machine and countered early over-confidence over precision bombing with the reminder that the second phase of the war would be fought "not with the newest technology, but with the oldest technology of all, the brute courage of the ordinary soldier on the ground". From early on Mr Ashdown has emphasised too the need for attention to be paid to the nature of the peace to be sought afterwards.

In his Gulf speeches and questions Mr Ashdown has won plaudits from political opponents. As one put it: "He is putting on weight week by week". And he was not referring to the Ashdown waistline.

سكزا من لامل



The prime minister leaves No 10 with a protection officer for Commons question time

## Soldier's boots cost father £60

A father spent £60 this week on sending desert boots to his son with the British forces in the Gulf because the boots issued were unsuitable and let in the sand, the Commons was told yesterday.

Max Madden, Labour MP for Bradford West, said that the father, a constituent who had two sons in the Gulf, was distressed when he received a letter from one of them saying: "The boots we have been issued with are useless. They are too short and the sand gets in the top and causes foot problems."

Mr Madden said that he had contacted the defence ministry and a minister and confirmed that there was a problem and that the right desert boots were being sent. The MP asked why the correct boots had not been available.

John MacGregor, leader of the House, said that he did not know about the details, but suggested that Mr Madden should reconsider his decision to vote against the majority on the Gulf issue.

## Saddam rejected

The overwhelming majority of the 200,000 Muslims in the North-West have no wish for the violence in the Gulf to spread into conflict between religious communities in Britain, Dr Bashir Ahmed, convenor of the Manchester Council of Mosques, said yesterday.

The ordinary grassroots of our community have no sympathy for Saddam Hussein and his call for a holy war," he said.

## 50 flown home

Fifty injured British servicemen, including two airmen who ejected from their Tornado when their aircraft developed a fault, have so far been flown home for treatment. The Tornado crewmen, Wing Commander Mike Heath and Squadron Leader Peter Barton, are at the Princess Alexandra hospital at RAF Wroughton, Wiltshire.

## Singer's return

Dame Vera Lynn, the second world war forces' sweetheart, was back entertaining troops yesterday when she broadcast to the Gulf on the BBC World Service. Dame Vera, aged 73, recorded an interview at Bush House, central London, for transmission last night to 25 million people including British forces in Saudi Arabia.

## TOURISM

## Theatres hit by trip cancellations

By WILLIAM CASH

THE absence of American tourists is hitting London's West End hard. Half of American tour bookings have been cancelled because of the fear of terrorism, the US recession, and the low rate of the dollar, according to the British Incoming Tour Operators' Association, and more cancellations are expected.

For theatres, January is traditionally a bad time but this year many agents say that they are making no advance sales. Peter Moichman, finance director of Edwards and Edwards, a specialist overseas theatre agent, said that there had been a sharp reduction in business. "Everyone is cancelling because they are frightened. It is affecting all the West End. The phones are just not ringing."

He added that when you can buy tickets on the day for a show such as *Miss Saigon*, the outlook for new shows was dismal. "People are sitting at home and watching the war on TV. We are very concerned about how long the war will run. You can't survive for ever on no sales."

Vincent Burke, director of Keith Prowse theatre agents, said that international strife always had a short-term effect on sales, but added: "This isn't the tourist season anyway and so long as the war is over soon this won't necessarily be a major problem."

David Hurst, head of public affairs at the Association of British Travel Agents, said that the majority of American trips had been cancelled almost overnight. "It happens whenever there is any uncertainty in the world, whether it's the Falklands war or a general election. People are nervous about leaving home at these particular times."

## PRIME MINISTER

## Hurd asked to report on cost of operations

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, is preparing a report for the cabinet on the cost of the Gulf war and who might be persuaded to make contributions to Britain's costs.

This was confirmed after John Major, the prime minister, gave the full cabinet a report from the smaller war cabinet yesterday. There is still considerable uncertainty in Whitehall about how any money Japan and Germany have recently announced they will contribute, would be distributed, and the questions of cost is being pursued in a variety of organisations, including the G7 group of industrialised nations and the European Community.

Senior government sources said last night that the first £1 billion promised by Japan was being administered by the Gulf Co-operation Council run by Arab states, but nothing had yet been worked out about whether contributions to the costs were to be based on the gross domestic product of the countries who had provided units for the allied forces or on some other basis.

Ministers at yesterday's cabinet are understood to have remarked on public concern that there should be equitable arrangements for Britain in meeting the cost of a war being fought on behalf of the United Nations.

Mr Hurd has to summarise in his paper the arguments which Britain will use in seeking contributions to Gulf war costs and the best forum in which to pursue them.

In the Commons yesterday Mr Major refused an invitation from a leftwinger Harry Barnes, Labour MP for Derbyshire North-East, to ask President Bush to call off what he called "carpet bombing" by B52s which he claimed was destroying large areas around Basra. Mr Barnes, who suggested that napalm would be used by the allied forces, also said: "Will you also ask him to desist from a ground battle that will lead to massive destruction and perhaps the mutual destruction of both sets of troops?"

The prime minister replied: "No one wants a ground war."

It can be avoided if Saddam Hussein withdraws from Kuwait as we have asked him to do for some time.

"We have made perfectly clear before that we won't use certain weapons, but I wouldn't think it right to spare the Iraqi military at the possible risk to British soldiers at some future stage in this conflict."

"My prime and overriding concern must and will continue to be the safety of British soldiers and the avoidance of unnecessary risk."

## PEACE PROTESTS

## Thousands expected at weekend marches

TENS of thousands of peace protesters are expected to take to the streets of at least 20 towns and cities tomorrow in demonstrations against the Gulf war (Ray Clancy writes).

Regional marches in Scotland and Wales and throughout England, including Newcastle upon Tyne, Carlisle, Bath, Brighton, Exeter, Nottingham, Kendal, Bristol, Yeovil and Sheffield, have been organised by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Marjorie Thompson, of CND, said that many people wanted to know why information on the Gulf war appeared to be so incomplete. "We are not being told how many people have died," she said. "All over the country tomorrow, local people will protesting at the stupidity, danger and waste of this war."

A march through central London followed by a rally in Hyde Park has been organised for tomorrow by the Committee to Stop War in the Gulf, an umbrella body representing many peace groups and supported by a number of Labour MPs. A spokesman could not say how many participants were expected.

Letters, page 13

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## More interest being shown in hard ecu, Lamont tells MPs

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE government's proposals for a common European currency as an alternative to an imposed single currency are attracting growing interest among European governments, Norman Lamont, the chancellor, said yesterday.

Tabled by Britain two weeks ago, they were largely dismissed within the EC when first mooted last autumn by John Major, Mr Lamont's predecessor, and Margaret Thatcher helped to undermine their credibility by voicing doubts over the extent to which the "hard ecu" would be used.

The Major government's more positive attitude was made clear to MPs yesterday as Mr Lamont, opening a Commons debate on economic and monetary union, spoke of the common currency's attractions for companies and individuals and emphasised that over time it could evolve towards a single currency.

Earlier John Major said that the government's proposals were attracting more support. "The real virtue of the hard ecu is that it would be determined by the market, driven by the market and not imposed upon anyone," he said.

Mr Lamont quoted the "wise words" of the French finance minister, Pierre Bergeyovoy, on the subject of progressively increasing the credibility of the ecu.

Mr Lamont emphasised throughout his speech that the government would not accept any treaty changes binding Britain to move towards a single currency or monetary policy without a separate de-

### TREASURY

cision by the British government and Parliament.

However, the chancellor said that the British approach "or some development of it" could lead to a single currency which was not ruled out for ever if that was what people and governments wished.

He said that while present economic divergences existed, a move to a single currency for all EC countries would represent a "massive leap in the dark".

Treasury officials said later that the tone of reaction within the EC to Britain's common currency proposal was markedly different from that of only a few months ago. They attributed the change to the fact that negotiations had now started within the inter-governmental conference on EMU.

Mr Lamont's message was underlined by another cabinet minister last night. Peter Lilley, industry secretary, told a meeting of the Bruges Group that he was far less pessimistic than some about the outcome of the inter-governmental conference.

Mr Lamont said that the British proposals provided a way in which all 12 countries could move together beyond the first stage of Delors; they provided for the creation of a genuinely European currency; and they reinforced the pressures within the European exchange-rate mechanism for member countries to converge at the lowest inflation rate in the Community.

The chancellor made clear that the hard ecu would not be granted legal tender status in the first instance, but he did not rule out that it might over the longer term.

He told MPs that the gap between Britain and its partners at the conference was not

unbridgeable. However, a willingness to discuss and adapt the British proposals did not mean that the government had abandoned its concerns about a single currency or was about to withdraw the objections it had expressed all along to the Delors plans.

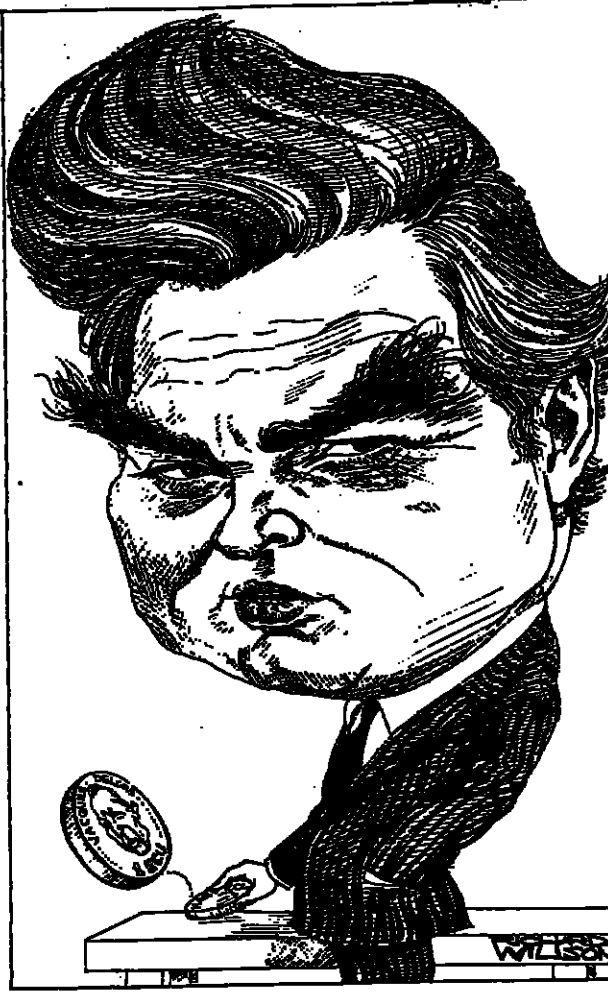
John Smith, Labour shadow chancellor, said that any movement towards monetary union would be in the interests of the Community as a whole only if there was a substantial degree of convergence. Monetary union in the absence of an adequate level of convergence would create strain that would threaten fragmentation rather than integration. It would therefore be a serious error to set a rigid timetable.

There had to be a greatly expanded system of regional and structural funds at Community level. The government, he said, took a negative view of regional policy at Community level as it did at domestic level, but regional policy should be used as an effective means of assisting convergence.

He rejected a claim from Francis Maude, financial secretary, that his policy would lead to an outflow of funds from Britain.

As Conservative MPs protested and sought to intervene, Mr Smith retorted that one of the reasons that Thatcherism never crossed the Channel was because other EC countries had a far more balanced idea about economic progress.

Mr Smith went on to speak of expanding the Community. He said that progress towards monetary union should not prevent the widening of the Community to include the countries of Efta, the European Free Trade Area, and the eventual association followed by accession of the newly emerging democracies of central and Eastern Europe.



Lamont: rejects single currency 'leap in the dark'

## Pollution 'police' to be doubled

By SHEILA GUNN  
POLITICAL REPORTER

### ENVIRONMENT

DAVID Trippier, the environment minister, has won Treasury backing to double the number of pollution inspectors within five years as they take on new powers to clean up industrial contamination.

He also announced yesterday an 18 per cent pay increase this year for staff in the pollution inspectorate to deter inspectors from leaving for higher-paid jobs in the private sector. In recent years the inspectorate has suffered a spate of resignations by senior inspectors.

The success of controls in the government's "green" act rests largely with the pollution "police force" checks on emissions from dirty factories. The environment department has delayed introducing the integrated pollution controls until the inspectorate is strengthened.

The Treasury has approved a budget rise from £20 million this year to £24 million next year when the inspectorate will become a "Next Steps" agency, semi-independent of Whitehall control. Inspectors' salaries will range between £22,000 and £39,000 a year.

The inspectorate will also have 80 new posts this year. It started with 133 staff when it was formed in 1987 and now has 220. In a Commons written answer yesterday, Mr Trippier predicted that the number of staff will rise to more than 300 by April next year, to about 400 when the new control system is in place.

"The substantial increase in [the inspectorate's] strength demonstrates the government's commitment to the highest standards of environmental protection," he said.

## Thatcher plans to break her silence

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

### US SPEECH

MARGARET Thatcher is planning to break her almost total self-imposed silence since her fall from power within the next six to eight weeks by delivering a keynote speech on international affairs.

The former prime minister is provisionally engaged to deliver an address in America dealing with the central questions on the world stage.

According to her friends, she will set out her views on the longer-term consequences of the Gulf war, the nationalist uprisings in the Soviet Union and the future of President Gorbachev.

However, domestic attention will be most closely focused on her remarks about the future of Europe. She is expected to expand on her vision of a wider European community, embracing the newly independent states of the former eastern block, a development that has been widely resisted on the Continent for fear that it would slow

moves towards closer European union.

Since her resignation, Mrs Thatcher has refused many requests for interviews. She has spoken only to the *House Magazine*, the weekly parliamentary journal; she also gave an immediate reaction to the Iraqi missile attack on Israel.

Mrs Thatcher is said to be determined to do nothing to undermine John Major, who succeeded her as prime minister in November. She was deeply embarrassed by the furore surrounding the disclosure that she is to assume the presidency of the Bruges group and she is intent on avoiding similar controversies.

Nevertheless, if she becomes convinced that the government has badly lost its way over Europe, she will see it as her duty to the country to speak out.

Mr Gummer said that the proposals did not deliver a

### AGRICULTURE

reduction in the cost of the common agricultural policy; they did not preserve the environment; they did not protect the Community against fraud; and they ensured for ever the entirely out-of-date small-farm system that could not provide livings for those farmers to remain on the land.

Ralph Howell, Tory MP for Norfolk North, said that the proposals would be devastating for British agriculture and Ann Winterton, Tory MP for Congleton, said that British farmers would have to reduce dairy and milk production by four times more than those in Germany.

Mr Gummer told her that the proposals would mean that most dairy farmers in her county would have their quotas cut by a tenth while most in the Irish Republic would keep the same quota as now.

David Wiltshire, Conservative MP for Spelthorne, said that reform of the CAP "should reward efficiency and help farmers compete on the world stage, rather than feathered the pocket-handkerchief homesteads and thus isolate them from market forces".

David Curry, a junior agriculture minister, also attacked Mr MacSharry's plans. He said: "Quite simply, his proposals are anti-economic. Any system designed to take an economic unit which can compete and render it uncompetitive must make nonsense economically."

● America's attitude towards the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks was criticised by Mr Gummer. The talks, the Uruguay round, broke down at the end of last year. A stumbling block has been the controversy over American demands for further cuts in EC farm subsidies.

Mr Gummer said: "Negotiation has to be two-way. I hope very much that when negotiations are properly resumed, the US will begin to negotiate round the table, and get down and stay there until there is a solution, rather than addressing the rest of the world as if everyone else has to change their attitude to fit in with the needs of the US farmers."



## Hostages appeal to Syria and Iran

John Major disclosed yesterday that increased diplomatic pressure is being exerted on Iran and Syria to free the British hostages held in Lebanon, Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Jackie Mann.

The prime minister said that the Iranian government is being pressed to live up to its undertaking to use its influence to achieve their release.

In a letter to Kenneth Warren, Conservative MP for Hastings and Rye, Mr Major said that the government is also urging Syria to live up to similar assurances it has given.

## Wrens to be allowed to fly

Women in the Royal Navy are to be allowed to undertake flying duties, Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, said in a Commons written reply. They are to be employed initially as pilots, observers and aircrew in Sea King anti-submarine warfare and airborne early warning helicopters and in Lynx anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare helicopters.

## Irradiated food backed

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, gave strong backing for irradiated food. Regulations allowing its sale came into force on January 1, and Mr Gummer said in the Commons that he would choose irradiated food because it was safer.

## Farm checks

David Curry, junior agriculture minister, is to review this year the environmental and economic impact of the environmentally sensitive area scheme under which farmers are paid grants, he said in a written Commons reply.

## Parliament next week

The main business in the Commons next week will be: Monday: Ports bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Motions on revenue support grants for England and for Wales.

Wednesday: Debates on Opposition motions on the recession in industry and on famine in sub-Saharan Africa.

Thursday: Ministerial and Other Pensions and Salaries bill, second reading.

Friday: Private member's bill: National Health Service (Compensation) bill, second reading.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: Statutory Sick Pay bill, third reading. Debate on research and development.

Tuesday: Planning and Compensation bill, committee stage continued.

Wednesday: Debate on curbing drug abuse.

Thursday: Debate on Law Commission report, *The Ground for Divorce*.

### Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Pig Husbandry bill and Domestic Smoke Alarms bill, second reading.

## Efficiency scheme for record office

By RICHARD FORD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FAR-reaching plans to improve the efficiency of the Public Record Office and make it more responsive to consumers have been recommended by the prime minister's efficiency unit.

As part of the proposals, the office, largely based at Kew, will be renamed the National Archives and removed from day-to-day government control by becoming a semi-autonomous agency next year under the "Next Steps" programme.

The efficiency unit said that the record office should put greater emphasis on its publishing, retailing and educational services and recommended the creation of an in-house publishing unit. It suggested that the office could have a much higher profile and could widen its appeal from its existing market of

### AGENCY STATUS

academics and genealogists to tap increasing interest about the past from local historians, families and the public.

The report said that the office put too much emphasis on the scholarly end of the market and added that it could make a much greater effort to widen its appeal without lowering standards. As part of that effort, the report urged the office to increase the number of visits by children, sixth formers and college students.

It criticised the present management and said that it had undertaken no effective strategic planning. Many staff, it said, were frustrated by the absence of clear direction and decisive action from senior management and it criticised the office's "inward-looking culture".

## Marlow deselection fight tonight

By CRAIG SETON

A MOVE to deselect Tony Marlow, the Conservative MP for Northampton North, will be launched tonight by members of the constituency association who are still angered that he spoke out against Margaret Thatcher's premiership and openly supported Michael Heseltine in the Conservative leadership contest.

The passage of time since Mrs Thatcher left office and the growing assurance of John Major as prime minister have helped to heal the hurt felt by some members of the constituency association over the MP's actions. Britain's involvement in the Gulf war is also diverting the attention of some of those who a few weeks ago wanted to punish Mr Marlow.

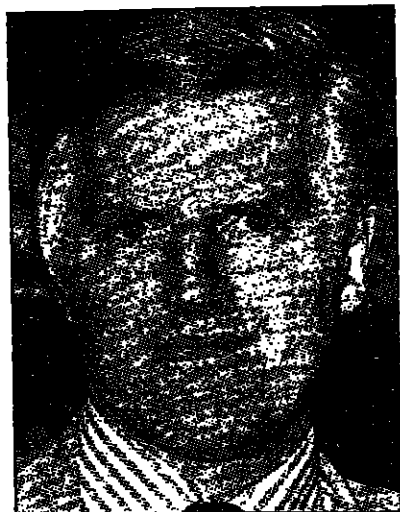
Others, however, are unwilling to forgive and are determined to start the process to oust him for his "betrayal" of Mrs Thatcher.

More than 50 of the 900 members of the Conservative association signed a petition calling for tonight's meeting, which Mr Marlow will attend. It will consider a motion claiming that the MP has "severely damaged the Conservative Party's electoral prospects at the next general election" and calls for other candidates to be considered for selection.

The motion refers to the MP's recent actions and publicity he had attracted.

Mr Marlow's supporters are confident that he will win tonight, but they fear that the issue is splitting the local party and will reduce the MP's majority of more than 9,000 at the next general election.

Tonight's motion is being put by Derek Goodman and his wife Moya, both Conservative members of Northampton council. Mrs Goodman said



Marlow: battle over his stance on the party leadership

yesterday that she had been angered by Mr Marlow's open attacks on Mrs Thatcher before she left office, but she added: "We will say what we have got to say at the meeting. I do not want to comment."

Mr Marlow was elected in 1979 in the general election that launched Mrs Thatcher on her 11-year period of office. An outspoken right winger, he said as early as April last year that, as a Thatcherite, the first essential to maintaining Thatcherism was not Mrs Thatcher herself but the continuance of a Conservative government.

The MP has been out and about in Northampton North in the run-up to tonight's meeting, gauging opinion and canvassing support in the association.

His Conservative association declared itself firmly for Mrs Thatcher in the leadership contest and was infuri-

ated when Mr Marlow voted for Mr Heseltine. When Mrs Thatcher resigned, the MP again ignored the association when it supported John Major in the second round.

Some members believe that events have proved Mr Marlow's judgment to have been right, especially the party's improved standing in the opinion polls.

One association member, a faithful Thatcherite, said yesterday: "I do not want Tony deselected. People who voted for Mrs Thatcher at the general election said to me that they would not vote for her again. She should have gone gracefully after ten years."

Another said, however: "What sickened people was that, having attacked Mrs Thatcher for weeks, he stood up in the Commons when she made her last appearance as prime minister and said how marvellous she had been. That was the last straw."

Ron Lidington, a former mayor of Northampton, who signed the petition calling for tonight's meeting, said: "People have expressed disquiet, so it is necessary to have the meeting to iron things out. It is not just the leadership issue."

Dominic Browne, a Marlow loyalist in the association, said: "The leadership contest is over and done with. Everybody is talking about the Gulf war. We should concentrate on fighting the Labour party, not among ourselves." He added: "I have no doubt that Tony will win."

Ian Gardiner, the association chairman, said yesterday that publicly he remained neutral. He added: "The passage of time will have helped Mr Marlow. I do not think people are quite so strong in their views. The issue that upset the majority was his stance on the leadership issue. He has always been a maverick."



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Dogged endeavour: competitors training for the Siberian Husky Club's annual races being held this weekend at Aviemore, Highland, use wheeled sleds to overcome the lack of snow on Cairn Gorm

## Law lords rule that interest rate swap deals were illegal

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

POLL tax bills could rise next year by up to £15 as a result of a decision by the law lords yesterday to outlaw the involvement of councils in interest rate swap deals.

In a unanimous judgment, the law lords ruled that Hammersmith and Fulham council, west London, had acted illegally by entering into 592 swap deals worth a total of £6 billion between 1987 and 1989. The ruling, that all forms of swap contracts were speculation and hence illegal, will affect a further 135 local authorities in England and Wales which engaged in swap deals between 1983 and 1989 with a total of 40

British and foreign banks.

Hammersmith and Fulham hailed the ruling as a victory and said that it would now refuse to pay the £140 million which the banks say the council owes them on uncompleted swaps which were frozen by the litigation. Mike Goodman, the council's Labour leader, blamed the banks who, he said, "had encouraged local authorities to enter the swaps market in a major way".

In response, the banks gave a warning that local authorities would lose their status as "blue chip" borrowers and would in future be charged higher interest rates on normal borrowing. Irene Dörner, chairman of the steering group set up by the banks to oversee the swaps litigation, said: "This has already affected the credit rating of local authorities. They are no longer welcome and the cost of their money is going up."

A one per cent rise in interest rates charged on the total English and Welsh municipal borrowing of £450 billion would cost £15 per poll tax payer, according to the Association of District Councils. The environment department last night said that there was no reason for banks to alter the credit rating of councils. "Normal local authority borrowing is protected by law and is the safest of safe havens," it said.

The banks also said that they would launch individual litigation against councils which had engaged in swaps, not only to recover outstanding debts but to unravel contracts already completed which were now illegal. The banks stand to lose more than £400 million on swap contracts which were frozen after the legality of the swaps arranged by Hammersmith and Fulham was challenged by the district auditor in February 1989.

Swaps were pioneered in the early Eighties as a means of allowing companies to manage their debts. Money borrowed from one source at a fixed rate of interest was swapped for a floating interest rate loan. If market rates fell the company made a profit. Councils came into the market in 1983 on a wave of creative accounting designed to cope with mounting debt and government spending restrictions.

Lord Templeman, giving the leading judgment, said that the council had effectively staked the ratepayers' money on a gamble on interest rates. In some of the contracts there had been no pretence of swapping one loan for another. The council had simply put up "a notional sum of £1 million" and agreed that if the London interbank interest rate rose or fell by one per cent it would either gain or lose £10,000.

The banks had argued that the system was like taking out an insurance policy but Lord

Templeman said: "A swap contract is more akin to gambling than insurance. Success depends on a successful forecast of future interest rates... there are substantial risks."

Ruling that the council had no power to engage in swaps he added: "A local authority owes a duty to its ratepayers to preserve ratepayers' funds. The council indulged in speculation on a vast and admittedly unlawful scale."

Howard Davies, controller of the Audit Commission, last night offered his services as a honest broker to head off a fresh round of litigation. Informal talks have already taken place between the councils, the banks, the Treasury and the environment department on how restitution might be made and a round of interest rate rises avoided.

Ian Ward, assistant finance secretary at the district councils association, said he believed that all but the twelve councils which had indulged in the heaviest speculation in swaps were ready to settle with the banks. They were prevented from doing so because of yesterday's ruling. He called on the government to find a legal way for them to repay debts incurred on illegal transactions.

Labour-controlled Ogwr district council based at Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, is likely to be the first council to be taken to court, probably in March.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of TSB group, which has already written off £76 million on swaps deals with local councils, said: "It is unreasonable that the TSB group's shareholders should have suffered these losses bearing in mind that we had been trading in good faith with local authorities in an internationally recognised, regulated market."

He said that the affair had been acutely damaging to confidence in London's markets, especially abroad and he called on the government to act promptly to restore the credibility of the City.

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Banks protest, page 21  
Law report, page 32

## Judge refuses to convict on forced miscarriage charge

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE trial of a doctor accused of forcing his secretary to miscarry after seducing her in his surgery collapsed yesterday when the judge refused to convict under an old law.

In what is thought to be the first case of its kind, Judge Michael Wright refused to find Dr Harpal Dhillon guilty of procuring a miscarriage on Helen Forley by fitting her with a contraceptive coil. To do so would be to "fly in the face of medical evidence which is now available", he said.

The judge held that Miss Forley, aged 32, could not have been pregnant "in the true sense of the word" when the contraceptive coil was fitted on September 27 1988, 11 days after the couple had sexual intercourse in a hotel. That was because she had not missed her period and was not expecting another until October 18.

The charge was brought under the Offences against the Person Act 1861. The judge said: "In 1861 the mechanics of a woman's reproductive organs were not as well understood as they are today. Nor were the modern techniques of interference available." At that time, he added, the consequences of an unprotected act of intercourse were not dealt with until the woman involved had missed her period.

After hearing evidence from Dr

Roger Callender, consultant gynaecologist from Wordsley hospital, West Midlands, and Dr Nicholas Siddie, gynaecologist at the Royal College of London, the judge said: "Dr Dhillon fitted Miss Forley with a coil on September 27. It is impossible that any ovum released from her ovary was fertilised after 11 days. It is highly unlikely that any ovum became implanted and only at the completion of implantation does the embryo become a foetus. At this stage the woman can be regarded as pregnant."

He dismissed the physical changes Miss Forley experienced in her breasts as "wishful thinking" because she was "anxious" to have a child. The blood loss could be attributed to the fitting of the coil itself, he added.

Dr Dhillon, of Albrighton, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, had denied fitting the coil because he feared repercussions from the General Medical Council. The doctor was in a difficult position having been forced to admit that he had sexual relations with a woman who was his patient. "He was reluctant to make his position with the professional body any worse by admitting criminal conduct."

The court heard how Miss Forley, of Perton, West Midlands, claimed that the doctor fitted her

with the coil on October 13 but later admitted it was inserted earlier. "The situation would of course have been different if the device was inserted after a pregnancy had been established," the judge said.

She told the court that the doctor's reaction to hearing she was pregnant was "one of complete anger". The doctor fitted the coil as soon as she gave him the news and then had sexual intercourse with her again in the examination room, she said.

Judge Wright said he was satisfied the coil was fitted as a contraceptive device, even though the couple had already had unprotected sex. "The defendant knew what the position was and knew what the effect would be at the time of the insertion of the coil. He could not have intended to procure a miscarriage in the sense that I have outlined and therefore I regard it as my duty to withdraw this case."

Keith Davis, national co-ordinator of the anti-abortion organisation Life, said last night that it was not a judge's place "to interpret the beginnings of human life". Graham Cliff, counsel for the prosecution, said the case was "the first of its kind to deal with the effects of fitting a coil after an act of intercourse but before the woman's next period".

## Ban on Kurds illegal

The government yesterday conceded that 19 Turkish Kurds who sought asylum in Britain in 1989 were unlawfully prevented from entering the country (Quentin Cowdry writes).

Home Office orders dismissing the Kurds' claims were quashed by the High Court after the department admitted that it could not be sure their applications had been properly examined. The Kurds were among thousands who sought refuge in Britain in 1989, claiming they feared mistreatment in Turkey.

In a statement to the court, the department said that given the haste of airport interviews, "the secretary of state can no longer be certain that each passenger who had made an asylum claim was referred to the Home Office, as required by the immigration rules".

## Bishops defend religion classes

Government education policy is in danger of forcing religion out of the basic school curriculum, according to the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales (Ruth Gledhill writes).

In a pastoral letter to be read at all masses on Sunday, the bishops call for 10 per cent of all teaching time in Roman Catholic schools to be allocated to religious education. They say: "Under the present law, religious educators are finding it hard to hold their own in school. In theory RE has an assured position in the basic curriculum, but in practice it is in danger of being squeezed out."

## Organic 'danger'

Organic food grown without the use of pesticides and fertilisers could be more dangerous to health than the produce of conventional farming, Professor George Lunt, head of the school of biological sciences at Bath university, claimed yesterday. In a report for two of Britain's biggest fruit-growing co-operatives, he said that organically grown crops were more likely to suffer from fungal infections that were controlled by modern chemical spraying.

## Press body's task

The government is in favour of self-regulation for the press rather than new legislation to curb its activities, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, told the Times Young Professionals Award dinner at the Savoy hotel, London last night. He said that the new Press Complaints Commission needed to win the confidence of the industry and to demonstrate to the government and public that self-regulation was an effective means of press restraint.

## Abuse charges

Christopher Oldfield, aged 48, a social worker in charge of Cleveland county council's Elm Tree Community Home in Stockton-on-Tees, was remanded to Durham prison for a week by Teesside magistrates yesterday on six charges of indecent assault and one of gross indecency against five boys and one girl between January 1978 and December 1983.

## Bath re-opening

Four years after part of the ballroom ceiling collapsed, Bath Assembly Rooms will be re-opened by the Duchess of Kent today after renovation and refurbishment costing £2 million. Another £200,000 has been spent restoring the nine great chandeliers. The rooms will re-open to the public in April when the costume museum has been restored.

## Infections increase

Salmonella poisoning hit two more ward staff at the Royal South Hants hospital in Southampton yesterday, bringing to 13 the number of people infected by the outbreak. One elderly man has died.

## University chiefs to meet on new ballot

By JOHN O'LEARY  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
CORRESPONDENT

VICE-CHANCELLORS are meeting today to sanction a new election for the chairmanship of the universities' main representative body if their original choice is named as the new chief executive of the Universities Funding Council (UFC).

Graeme Davies, the vice-chancellor of Liverpool university, is due to take over from Sir Edward Parkes as chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals in June. His election was announced only last month.

Since last year's ballot, however, he has been approached to succeed Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer as chief executive of the funding council. Instead of putting the universities' case on grant allocations, he would be the senior official on the other side of the negotiations.

Professor Davies, a New Zealander aged 53, has been confirmed as the choice of the UFC, but the education department is



Davies: would swap sides in funding negotiations

still to secure Treasury agreement on terms and conditions. The second permanent secretary's salary of £70,750 paid is less than that of many vice-chancellors.

The appointment has been submitted to Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, for approval, and an announcement may be made next week.

The research councils yesterday reacted gloomily to the allocation of the science budget for 1991-2, announced by Mr Clarke. The increases, well short of inflation, will mean cuts in the work of all five councils.

The £451.3 million for the SERC, the largest, "is about what we have been led to expect", its chairman, Sir Mark Richmond said yesterday. "Two reasonable years have been followed by a lousy year."

## Claimants failing to see work benefits

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT policy to encourage people on social security into work is misfiring because claimants do not realise they will be better off, according to a report from the National Audit Office.

The document, *Support for Low Income Families*, published yesterday, claimed that thousands of social security claimants do not know what they are entitled to, or how payments are assessed. Although the 1988 social security reforms were intended to simplify

the system, half of income support claimants did not understand how their award was calculated.

A Mori survey found that only 13 per cent of income support recipients who had heard of Family Credit, given to low-income working families, say that they have received advice or an explanation of the benefit. One in five claimants thought they would be better off on social security than working.

However, 82 per cent of those interviewed in an NOP survey who had been unemployed before taking up work said they were better off or getting about the same as when out of work.

When Liverpool city council is over-staffed and gives poor value for money, according to a report by the district auditor, Neil Edwards, issued yesterday. In the report, based on 1988-9 accounts, he said that there was a belief in Liverpool that the council should employ as many people as possible.

Robert Craig, executive secretary of the Scottish Library Association, believes that the popularity of libraries reflects the money and enterprise put into making them an integral part of the community.

Certainly in Scotland, following the library-funding exploits of the 19th-century philanthropist An-

drew Carnegie, the amount spent on libraries per resident at £13.13 is 44 per cent above that of the English counties and 15 per cent above the English metropolitan boroughs. London has the highest average spending a head at £19.39, largely because of its disproportionate number of large libraries.

Mr Craig said: "The number of books loaned in Scotland each year has doubled over the last 50 years, despite the distractions of television, and the number is still rising. Local authorities here undertook a serious review of the library service four years ago and has increased the funding and range of services. In England, that has not happened for 20 years and perhaps it is time for them to catch up."

Increased funding for school libraries in Scotland and a signifi-

## CAP reform rejected as extremist

By MICHAEL HORNSEY  
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS rejected yesterday what they called the "extreme ideas" emanating from Brussels for reform of the European Community's common agricultural policy and voted instead in favour of compulsory production restraints.

Sir Simon Gourlay, president of the National Farmers' Union, said the reforms outlined earlier this week by Raymond MacSharry, the European agriculture commissioner, posed "the biggest threat to British agriculture since the second world war".

He told a meeting of the union's ruling council that the Brussels plan would cut returns on a 200-acre cereal farm by 15 per cent and those on a 500-acre farm by 30 per cent. Mr MacSharry is proposing cuts of up to 40 per cent in the guaranteed support prices paid to cereals, beef and dairy farmers, coupled with reduced headage subsidies for sheep flocks and a 4.5 per cent cut in the EC's milk production quota.

A 378,000-signature petition calling for the phasing-out within five years of the most intensive pig rearing systems was presented yesterday to John Gummer, the agriculture minister, by the animal rights group, Compassion in World Farming.

## Bookish Scots top league table of library borrowers

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

BOOK borrowing from Scottish libraries is on the increase leaving other parts of the United Kingdom lagging behind in terms of the number of titles borrowed per person each year.

The Scots not only borrow more, they are prepared to pay more per head of population to keep their libraries as a focal point of the community.

The people who make the best use of their libraries live in Dumfries, Strathclyde, according to an annual review by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Figures up to April last year show that on average, each person borrows 18 library books annually, almost double the British average and four times the number of one

London borough. Not far behind, is the mining community of Clackmannan, in Central region, where each resident borrows an average of 17 books a year.

Compared to such avid reading, the English, Northern Irish and Welsh have a meagre appetite for borrowed books. The Welsh and Northern Irish annually take out seven books for each person while the English borrow ten.

There is wide regional disparity, however. Berkshire, Kent and Norfolk are at the foot of the English counties league table with just eight books borrowed by each person, while Cleveland, Hertfordshire, West Sussex, Lancashire and the Isle of Wight claim 12 loans a person. Northumberland heads the list, lending an average of 13 books per resident. Of the metropolitan and

London boroughs, Lambeth's four books per resident and Haringey's five, are at the bottom of the scale, together with Liverpool on seven. At the other end are London boroughs such as Sutton with 14, and Harrow, Wandsworth, Bexley, and Redbridge with 12. The same number was also recorded at Gateshead and South Tyneside, Tyne & Wear, Dudley, West Midlands, Calderdale, West Yorkshire, and Stockport, Greater Manchester.

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Increased funding for school libraries in Scotland and a signifi-

cant rise in the number of children's books makes Mr Craig even more hopeful for the future.

His optimism is not shared by Ross Shimmion, director of professional practice at the Library Association, which represents more than 20,000 library staff. He plans to meet Timothy Renton, arts minister, and Kenneth Clarke, education secretary, to discuss extra funding of young people's libraries.

"This is what concerns us most. It is ironic that, at a time when the government is introducing a curriculum which encourages children to find out things for themselves, the provision for schools and their libraries is not increasing. It is common sense that, if the array of goods on display is not as attractive, people will not come in."



## Children born to smokers 'face higher cancer risk'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

CHILDREN whose parents smoke are three to four times as likely to develop serious infections requiring hospital treatment, and also run an increased risk of cancer, two studies in the United States have concluded.

One of the findings is that the risk of cancer is increased in children even if it is their father, rather than their mother, who is the smoker. The authors of the study suggest that either smoking damages the male sperm in some way, predisposing children to cancers such as leukaemia, lymphoma and brain cancer, or the

risk of developing these cancers is increased by exposure to the father's smoking after birth.

Anne Berg of Yale university school of medicine, the principal author of one of the studies, compared 193 children with infectious diseases that warranted hospital admission with a control group of 193 who had not suffered from these diseases. She found that the children who had gone to hospital were more likely to live with a smoker.

The infections include those involving the digestive system as well as the respiratory system, suggesting that the effect of passive smoking in children is to reduce the effectiveness of the immune system, reducing resistance to disease.

Another study published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* makes a more contentious claim. Dale Sandler of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in North Carolina, Esther John of Stanford university school of medicine and David Savitz of the university of North Carolina compared 223 children with cancer against 196 healthy children.

They found that smoking by the child's mother during pregnancy increased the risks of leukaemia and lymphoma for her child by 30 per cent. They estimate that about 6 per cent of all childhood cancers and 17 per cent of acute lymphocytic leukaemia might be due to mothers' smoking. They also found that children exposed only to smoke from their fathers also had an increased risk of cancer. The authors said yesterday that a further study was needed to explain the link.

Specialists yesterday called for hospital patients recovering from operations to be given the choice of controlling their pain with push-button drug delivery equipment. David Crosby, a consultant surgeon, said that despite evidence of the benefits of patient-controlled analgesia, or PCA, the treatment is not widely used in British hospitals.

## Surgeons 'fail to do vital operation'

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 3,000 women in Britain receive inadequate treatment for early breast cancer, and some may die because surgeons do not carry out a vital operation, according to specialists in an article in today's issue of *The Lancet*.

Ian Fentiman, director of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund unit at Guy's hospital, London, and Professor Robert Mansell, of the Withington hospital, Manchester, claim that a standard operation to remove the lymph glands under the arm is not being carried out in many cases. Mr Fentiman said yesterday that it was the only accurate means of knowing if the cancer had spread and the basis upon which additional treatment should be planned.

According to the two specialists, some patients are left with cancerous tissue and deprived of a cure by primary treatment. Often the extent of tumour spread is inadequately assessed, with the risk that women did not get the appropriate drug treatment.



Period protest: campaigners against proposals for a viaduct extension to the A3 taking part yesterday in a protest walk at the Devil's Punchbowl, Surrey. They are in Dickensian costume to recall a fictional walk there by Nicholas Nickleby

## Ex-minister joins roadbuilding protest

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

PETER Bottomley, minister for roads from 1986 to 1989, yesterday joined in a national day of protest against the environmental consequences of the government's £17 billion road-building programme.

He praised the virtues of public transport when he joined three MPs from other parties in a demonstration against government plans to build a four-lane motorway through Oxleas Wood, the last significant piece of ancient woodland left in London, which lies in his constituency of Eltham.

With Joan Walley and Simon Hughes, environmental spokesmen for Labour and the Liberal Democrats respectively, and Rosie Barnes, SDP MP for Greenwich, he took part in a rally against the route, which will serve the proposed east London river crossing. The transport and environment departments have refused to put the road in a tunnel on cost



Porritt: much of the country "is up for grabs"

grounds. The road could only harm the wood, Mr Bottomley said, adding: "It's crazy that people spend so much time, up to several hours each day going to work by car, when there are public transport alternatives."

The Oxleas Wood demonstration was one of ten organised by county wildlife trusts as part of a



Bottomley: plea for public transport alternatives

national day of action against the roads programme. Last night an association was set up to defend the most celebrated threatened landscape, Twyford Down in Hampshire, to be bisected by the M3 motorway. Jonathon Porritt, the former director of Friends of the Earth, told the inaugural meeting of the Twyford Down

Association in Winchester that the decision entailed the destruction of more nationally designated landscapes and sites than any other planning decision in history.

"If such a site has no protection, then any square inch of the country is potentially up for grabs in the new roadbuilding programme," he said. Malcolm Rifkind, the new transport secretary, had the brief but crucial opportunity to review the decisions of his predecessor, Cecil Parkinson. Mr Porritt said, and should reverse the Twyford Down decision. "This is the last opportunity he will have to demonstrate that the recent environment white paper has some real substance."

Mr Porritt is to be a vice-president of the association. The president is to be the celebrated archaeologist Professor Martin Biddle, reflecting the archaeological importance of the site, which contains two scheduled ancient monuments, a set of medieval trackways and the remains of an iron-age settlement.

## Police retrieve stolen paintings

British and Portuguese police have retrieved French Impressionist paintings worth £1.5 million stolen during transit between Portsmouth and Portugal (Sarah Jane Checkland writes).

The harbour scenes by Boudin and Fissarro and a landscape by Sisley were sent by Gauntlet International on behalf of a client to Portugal, but the cases were found to be empty when they arrived.

Police stepped up their investigation after a ransom demand to the London loss adjusters Robert Bishop and Company. Four people were arrested in Portugal while a fifth was charged at Thames magistrates' court yesterday.

## Pickles calls for identity cards

Judge Pickles yesterday called for the introduction of a national identity card as a way of cutting crime. During a Huddersfield case involving a woman who admitted using a stolen chequebook, he said that criminals could not use them if they had to show a card carrying their name and photograph. "This sort of crime costs thousands of pounds every year and it could all be stopped straight away if we followed the continental system of everybody carrying an identity card with a photograph," he said.

## Trams return

A £60 million Light Rapid Transit system announced yesterday will bring trams back to Nottingham after more than 50 years. A ten-mile line linking the city centre with Hucknall to the north is expected to be running by 1996, carrying 15,000 passengers a day.

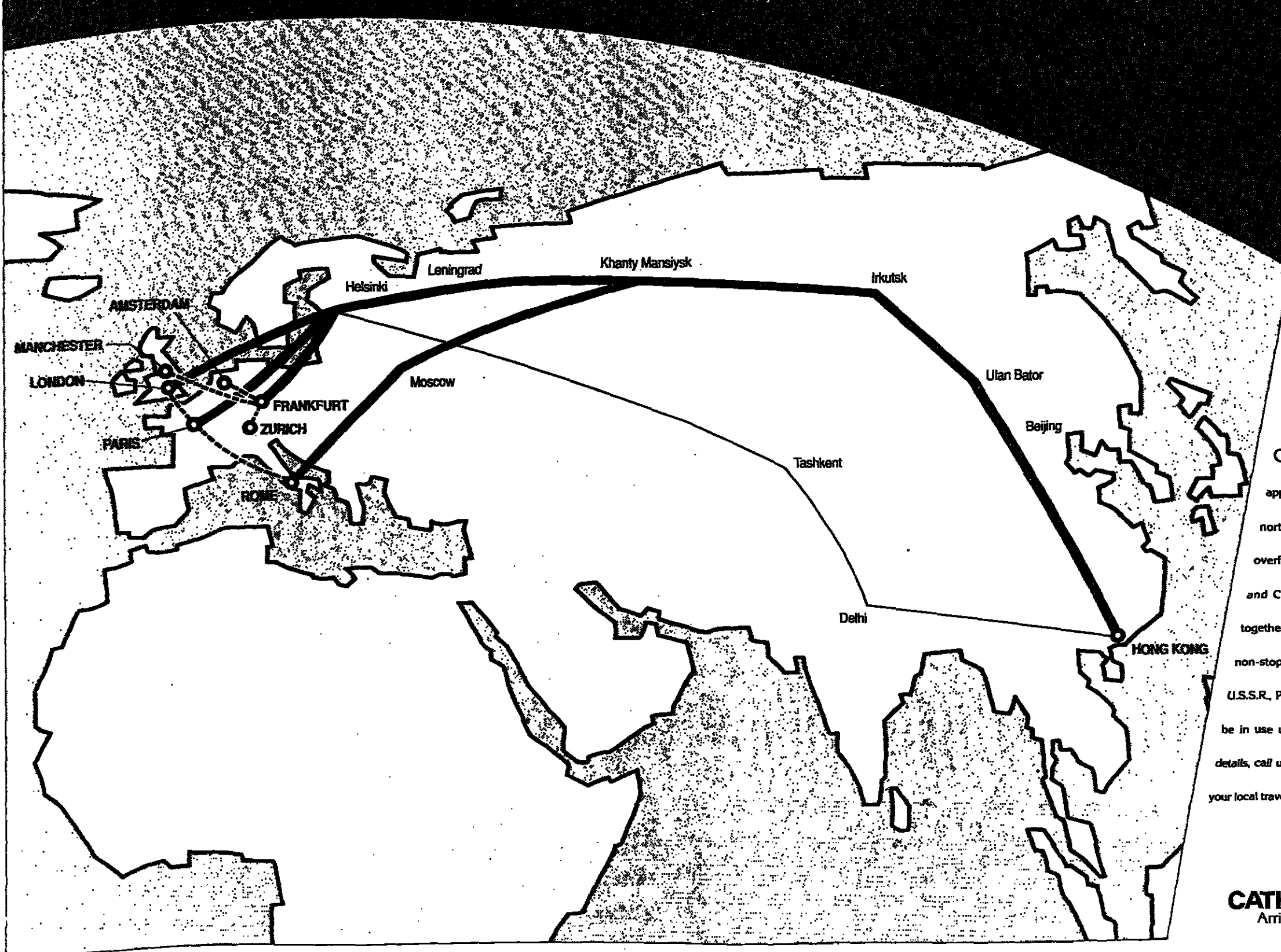
## More visit Ulster

A record total of 364,000 tourists from the Irish Republic visited Ulster last year, Hugh O'Neill, chairman of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, said yesterday.

## Liver bird survives

Liverpool's liver bird emblem, a distorted image of an eagle, is to remain as the city's logo after councillors rejected a proposal to replace it with Liverpool's rarely used coat of arms.

## CATHAY PACIFIC ANNOUNCE A NEW NON-STOP NORTHERN FLIGHT PATH BETWEEN EUROPE AND HONG KONG.



Cathay Pacific have obtained approval to use a new non-stop northern routing to Hong Kong overflying the U.S.S.R., Mongolia and China. This new flight path, together with an alternative existing non-stop routing, which overflies the U.S.S.R., Pakistan, India, and Burma, will be in use until further notice. For more details, call us on 071-930 7878 or contact your local travel agent.

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# Latvian volunteers sent home as party hardliner retreats

From BRUCE CLARK IN RIGA

LATVIA'S pro-independence parliament decided yesterday to send home the volunteers who have barricaded central Riga, and the republic's hard-line Communist party leader beat a hasty retreat from demands for the government's immediate overthrow.

But despite these signs of reconciliation, apparently linked to strong pressure from Moscow to avoid civil war at all costs, huge and potentially explosive differences remain between government and opposition over the legal status of Latvia and its security forces.

Alfreds Rubiks, the Latvian Communist leader, struck a restrained note when he spoke to reporters about his meeting in Moscow on Tuesday with President Gorbachev and Anatolij Gorbunov, the republic's moderate nationalist leader.

Asked about hints in the Soviet press that he blamed the Kremlin for "betraying" his plans to overthrow the Latvian government, Mr Rubiks said solemnly that some of his supporters, who are mostly

Russian-speaking workers, did at times feel let down by Moscow. But this was a mistaken view and it should simply be realised that "Mikhail Gorbachev is a man who wants democratic solutions; he is not a supporter of coercion".

His subdued manner was in sharp contrast to the triumphant tone in which he had addressed journalists on Monday, immediately after Omon paramilitary commandos, known as Black Berets, widely alleged to be in his pay, seized Latvia's interior ministry in a gun battle which cost four lives.

The decision to send home on Saturday the thousands of volunteers who have been erecting and manning barricades in central Riga since January 13 was taken by the defence committee of the Latvian parliament, which said citizens should none the less remain "in readiness" to defend their legislature.

Mr Rubiks, in contrast with previous demands for the immediate dissolution of the nationalist-dominated par-

liament and the introduction of presidential rule from Moscow, expressed willingness to continue dialogue in the existing legislature.

In a change of position, he abandoned strident expressions of support for the Omon squads and emphasised that a commercial arrangement under which the Latvian Communists paid the commanders for security duties had been terminated.

The shadowy Omon fighters, described by the Latvian government as terrorists in the service of the opposition, were withdrawn from key public buildings in Riga on Monday, apparently signalling an important change of policy by Moscow.

Mr Rubiks declined to comment on this decision, or to say whether he stood by previous assertions that Omon were a "stabilising force" in Riga whose assault on the interior ministry was a last-minute act of self-defence.

The Latvian Communist leader claimed that he and Mr Gorbunov had both agreed, during their talks with the Soviet president, on the creation of a "national reconciliation committee" grouping supporters and opponents of independence.

However, the continuing chasm between government and opposition over the Latvian constitution, and over who is entitled to bear arms in the republic, was highlighted by confusion over what force will take over the guarding of public installations in Riga after the barricade volunteers go home.

Police appeal: The crack Soviet police unit accused of killing five people and fuelling nationalist tension is to appeal to President Gorbachev to prevent closure of its Latvian base, a local deputy chief of the shadowy Black Berets said here yesterday.

Captain Slava Lashket told a group of Western reporters he would resist pressure for his unit to be disbanded. "We will ask Gorbachev to intervene because we do not want this unit to be dissolved. And that will be our categorical reply to the Soviet interior minister, Boris Pugo, who controls the unit," he said. (AFP)

## Riga fears civil war and dictatorship

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE imposition of dictatorship in the Soviet Union now looked inevitable and would probably be followed by civil war, Janis Jurkans, the Latvian foreign minister, said yesterday.

He forecast renewed Soviet-engineered violence in Latvia with an attack on the broadcasting station, which is still in republican hands. This would be the start of repression in the Baltics, and would continue until independence movements in other republics were suppressed.

Mr Jurkans received strong support from John Major, the prime minister, and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, after his meetings with them on Wednesday. He told a press conference yesterday that he was satisfied with Britain's response, understood to have

been much stronger in private messages to Moscow than in public statements so far.

He said President Gorbachev was either not heeded now by the military or was simply telling lies. He predicted that the Soviet leader would be overthrown. At present he was being tolerated because he kept open aid channels from the West. Calling for the West to cut-off of aid, Mr Jurkans said: "If he is supported by the military, he might survive. But how could he solve the economic problems without Western help?"

He added that dictatorship was now inevitable. Although there might be some who would resist orders to suppress the republics, "there are 4.5 million people in the army, and you will always find people willing to kill".



Bending over backwards: a young Chinese contortionist doubles up to perform the "pagoda of glasses" routine during rehearsals in Paris for the world circus festival of the future, which began in the French capital yesterday

## Evidence sought in Ukraine to save Demjanjuk

From ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

AN AMERICAN congressional delegation began a race against time here yesterday to hunt for witnesses who may give the convicted Nazi war criminal, John Demjanjuk, known as "Ivan the Terrible", a last-minute reprieve.

Starting yesterday, they began sifting through files, many dating from the 1940s, from military tribunals in the Soviet Union as well as contacting survivors of the Treblinka death camp who could describe Ivan the Terrible.

Demjanjuk was sentenced to death in 1988 and although the Israeli supreme court will allow new evidence to be presented the sentence is expected to be carried out within a few months.

His son, John, said the American legal team hoped to find evidence within a week to prove that his father, a naturalised American, could not have been the notorious Nazi guard responsible for operating the gas chambers at Treblinka as well as being personally responsible for carrying out sadistic crimes against Jewish inmates.

He said: "We believe the written evidence is in the Ukraine, although the search to find actual survivors may well take us to other parts of the Soviet Union. We are here not only to prove that my father was not Ivan the Terrible, but also to discover who the real Ivan was."

The Americans have also requested permission to examine a file held in Moscow which they say will prove Demjanjuk's innocence.

Ed Nishnic, a representative of the Ohio congressman, James Traficant, and a senior investigator in the case, said: "There is voluminous evidence that Demjanjuk was not Ivan the Terrible. One of the depositions contained in the files in Moscow even provides a description of the real Ivan."

So far the delegation has not had an answer to a request to view the files, but Mr Nishnic is confident that it will before it leaves.

He said: "We think that the KGB may have possession of this file and I am absolutely certain that they will have no desire to protect Nazi war criminals and that they would be willing to let go."

"It would look very bad for history if evidence existed and could exonerate an innocent man and that evidence was not passed to us."

The Americans are also hoping that interviews with former inmates of Treblinka, where 900,000 Jews were killed, will prove that the real Ivan the Terrible was a Ukrainian called Ivan Marchenko.

Mr Marchenko was believed to have been killed in Trieste in the 1940s.

● BERLIN: An Auschwitz SS guard who tortured gypsies and sent them to their deaths in the gas chambers was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday in what is probably the last trial arising from the atrocities committed in Hitler's death camps (Ann McElvoy writes).

Ernst August König, aged 71, was convicted of torturing three gypsies to death in 1943 and beating two others so severely that they died.

The war crimes trial which began in 1986 was one of the longest and most complicated because of the dispersal of the predominantly gypsy witnesses after the second world war.

## Bush is to meet Soviet minister

Washington — Alexander Bessmertnykh, the Soviet foreign minister, will meet President Bush here this weekend, amid continuing doubts on whether a planned super-summit will take place next month as scheduled. American officials said Mr Bessmertnykh will also hold talks with James Baker, Secretary of State, on a range of issues, including negotiations to reduce US and Soviet strategic weapons and the Soviet intervention in the Baltic republics.

## Mayor chosen

Berlin — The first government of a united Berlin convened to vote in the Christian Democrat leader, Eberhard Diepgen as the city's governing mayor. He succeeds the prominent Social Democrat Walter Momper, whose red-green coalition was voted out of office in the December all-German elections. Berlin is now governed by a grand coalition of the CDU and SPD.

## Croatia tense

Belgrade — The Croatian parliament is to meet in emergency session today as expectations of an armed confrontation grew. The military authorities threatened to put troops on alert unless Croatian police reservists were disbanded.

## Amnesty plea

London — Amnesty International called on Japan to abolish the death penalty and commute the death sentences of about 80 convicts. The London-based human rights organization opposes the death penalty in all circumstances. (AP)

## 'Teddy' ruling

Camden, New Jersey — A woman who, according to psychiatrists, believed a teddy bear directed her to kill three young sons by giving them overdoes of cough medicine and pills, has been acquitted of attempted murder by reason of insanity. The superior court ruled that Doris Triplett, aged 31, was innocent of the charges and ordered psychiatric care. (AFP)

## Russians ease pain of money reform

From MARY DIVEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE government of the Russian Federation announced yesterday it had modified some provisions of President Gorbachev's monetary reform, but said it approved of the changes in general.

The decision disappointed many Russian parliamentary deputies, who were under pressure from constituents to fight the central decision which declared all high-denomination banknotes worthless from midnight on Tuesday. Ivan Silayev, the Russian prime minister, told the federation parliament yesterday that the reform introduced with three hours' notice on Wednesday was "necessary" and "urgent". He revealed that the vast

majority of government ministers and local leaders in the Russian Federation approved of the measure. The chief priority now was to fulfil the directive as efficiently as possible and calm the tension.

He said that the Russian Federation would allow pensioners to exchange up to 500 roubles (£500) in the high-denomination notes and up to 1,000 on appeal to the local authorities. The figure set by the centre was 200 roubles. He also promised that Russia would extend the three-day deadline for exchanging old notes for new. Deputies said the distance people had to travel to banks and the uncertain supply of new notes meant more time was needed.



Demjanjuk: convicted as "Ivan the Terrible"

STRASBOURG NOTEBOOK by George Brock

## Stings in the tale of two cities

In theory, the members of the European Parliament are discussing the great issues of the day: the Gulf, the Baltics and regulations on fishing off the coast of Senegal.

In practice, what are they gossiping about all day long? Mainly the war between Brussels and Strasbourg over where the parliament should live. The weapons are words and procedural manoeuvres and, recently, litigation. Since MEPs are the elected representatives of the people of Europe, national rivalries are, naturally, set aside. They are then continued in coded form. Belgium, say the French, has grabbed more than its fair share of EC institutions as it is. Trucking all those people, laptop computers and papers across into France once a month is absurd, the Belgians reply.

The parliament was supposed to hold a special session on the Gulf and the Baltics in Brussels last week. To the fury of almost every other nation, the French Socialist leader, Jean-Pierre Cot, managed to sabotage the event, claiming that figures such as Jacques Delors could not attend.

The French government, which did not want to see the precedent of a parliamentary session held in the rival capital, is grateful, but the parliament's self-induced humiliation has not been forgiven. The opening moments of this week's session in Strasbourg were enlivened by a stream of invective

from the British Conservative, Derek Pragg, directed at M Cot, his "extended family" of French MEPs, and their "petty nationalism".

One of Mr Pragg's colleagues has now managed to fix two special sessions on the Gulf in Brussels in the next two weeks. One up to the Brussels lobby.

British Conservatives took a double beating in the European elections of 1989. They lost seats

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and their Spanish allies defected to another group. An application to join the more centrist (and larger) Christian Democrat group was rebuffed. Into the chill wind of Mrs Thatcher's disapproval. Things have improved

since then, but a fresh application will be made to join the CDs this spring. The Germans are sympathetic, but the Italian and Dutch less so. The British Conservatives have an off-putting reputation for being, as one official put it, "the school swots: always there, always voting."

But best of all is the change in Downing Street. "John Major looks and sounds more like a Christian Democrat every day," said a Tory MEP, wearing a broad smile.

Voting on a declaration on the Gulf war was such a shambles on Wednesday night that few MEPs know who voted for what. Somewhere along the line around 15 Labour MEPs did vote against an article which expressed solidarity with forces serving in the Gulf. John Underwood, the Labour party's new campaign chief, was out here this week. His report to Neil Kinnock should make interesting reading.

The European Community's political union negotiations are chewing over the parliament's circular sent out by M Cot this month that the parliament "cannot handle its own procedures and is not in a position to accomplish even its existing tasks".

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## UN invited to join talks on South African exiles' return

FROM STEPHEN TAYLOR IN CAPE TOWN

CHURCH leaders and nationalist groups in South Africa have invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to a conference to consider the repatriation of tens of thousands of political exiles in the next three months.

The conference — to be held in Harare, the Zimbabwean capital, on February 4 — is part of a campaign by church and nationalist leaders to get government agreement to the high commissioner's involvement in resettling the exiles in South Africa. Pretoria has accepted a role for the UN agency outside the country's borders but insists that to grant it an internal role would compromise national sovereignty.

The return of the exiles — estimated to number between 20,000 and 40,000, including about 6,000 guerrillas of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the African National Congress — is one of the issues standing in the way of constitutional negotiations between Pretoria and the ANC. Under the terms of a government-ANC deal the exiles are all supposed to be back in the country by April 30, but that deadline is looking increasingly unrealistic.

The government has said that the cost of repatriation must be borne by the exiles or their organisations, although there have been some indications that it might contribute towards the cost of the return. Even then, serious problems are bound to emerge over housing and jobs for those returning.

## ANC-Zulu meeting to bury hatchet

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

NELSON Mandela, the deputy president of the African National Congress, will head a 20-strong delegation to a long-awaited meeting with Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party leader, in the coastal city of Durban next Tuesday.

The meeting is being seen as a key step towards ending the violence that has claimed more than 3,000 lives in Natal and the KwaZulu homeland during the past four years, and over 1,000 in the Transvaal since August.

Although the agenda has not been disclosed, their meeting will lead to closer consultations between the two movements as they prepare for negotiations with the government on a post-apartheid constitution.

The ANC suffered a fresh setback yesterday when the rival Pan-Africanist Congress refused to take part in a proposed multi-party conference to thrash out a new constitution for South Africa.

He is almost certain to announce the scrapping of the Group Areas and Lands Acts, covering residential apartheid. In addition, he is now expected to unveil a draft bill which would amount to the first legislation in South Africa actually barring discrimination. Under this it would become illegal for any racial restriction to be imposed in the sale or letting of property.



Protest line: a New York commuter arguing with one of hundreds of Act-Up Aids activists who blocked access to rush-hour trains at Grand Central Station yesterday in a demonstration calling for money to be spent on Aids research rather than war

## Brahmins tighten grip on top jobs

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE eruption of caste as a political issue in India has focused attention on the power wielded by Brahmins, who comprise 3.5 per cent of the population.

Judging by people's names, which generally reveal caste, the newly formed 15-man cabinet includes five Brahmins. Most newspaper editors are Brahmins, which may explain why the press has been unanimous in opposing the reservation of government jobs for low castes.

Nearly all senior government officials are Brahmins, as are a large percentage of military officers. The Nehru political dynasty is Brahmin.

Khushwant Singh, the author and journalist, who is a Sikh, said that during British rule Brahmins held only 3 per cent of high-ranking government jobs. Now they held 70 per cent. Out of 500 posts from the rank of deputy secretary upwards, 310 were held by Brahmins.

Nineteen of the 26 state secretaries are Brahmins, as are 13 of the 27 governors and lieutenant-governors. Nine of the 16 supreme court judges are Brahmins. Of the 330 high court judges, 166 are Brahmins. Fifty out of 98 vice-chancellors are Brahmins. So are 258 of the 438 district magistrates. And 2,376 out of 3,300 officers of the elite Indian Administrative Service are Brahmins.

In politics, too, Brahmins are strongly placed. Of 530 MPs in the Lok Sabha (lower house), 190 are Brahmins. In the Rajya Sabha (upper house), 89 out of 244 members are Brahmins.

Mr Singh, declaring that he had not the slightest prejudice for or against any caste, wrote in a magazine article that Brahmins held between 36 and 63 per cent of all plum jobs in the country. He observed that in whatever sphere — literary, scientific and bureaucratic — the Brahmin was top dog. "How this has come about I do not know. But I can scarcely believe that it is entirely due to the Brahmins' higher IQ."

During British rule, the Kayastha community from north India and Bengal, not the Brahmins, dominated the administration with their clerical skills. To this day they are influential in government and the press. An Indian proverb declares: "Bribe a Kayastha, feed a Brahmin, flatter a Rajput, thrash a low caste."

Under British rule in 1935, Kayasthas held 40 per cent of the top posts. Muslims came next, with 35 per cent. Christians, who nowadays are almost non-existent in the upper reaches of government, held 15 per cent of the top administrative jobs.

The figures may explain why most members of parliament and the higher bureaucracy were appointed late last year at plans by Vishwanath Pratap Singh, a Rajput, then the prime minister, to introduce job quotas for "backward" castes. His successor, Chandra Shekhar, also a Rajput, has quietly put the issue aside, doubtless because it is so politically explosive. Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party, which is overwhelmingly dominated by Brahmins in its upper ranks, opposes low-caste job quotas.



Chandra Shekhar: has quietly sidestepped caste jobs issue

## Pact ends fighting on Pacific copper isle

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

A PEACE treaty to end two years of fighting on the Pacific island of Bougainville was signed yesterday after two days of talks between the Papua New Guinea government and secessionist rebels.

The treaty was signed in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, by the Papua New Guinea foreign minister, Sir Michael Somare, and the leader of Bougainville's breakaway government, Joseph Kabui. Plans are under way to install a multinational force to supervise the restoration of peace. A decision on the future of the island's giant copper mine at the centre of the fighting has been deferred.

More than 100 people have died in fighting between the Papua New Guinea defence force and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army which declared independence last year. In 1989 the rebels forced the closure of the island's copper mine, which they blamed for widespread pollution of tribal lands, while the island benefited little from its enormous output.

The Australian-operated mine accounted for almost half the revenue of Papua New Guinea and the economy has suffered since its closure. The Australian government supported Papua New Guinea's military operations against the rebels in an effort to reopen the mine. Amnesty International and church leaders condemned the military for the deaths of innocent islanders, extra-judicial killings and torture.

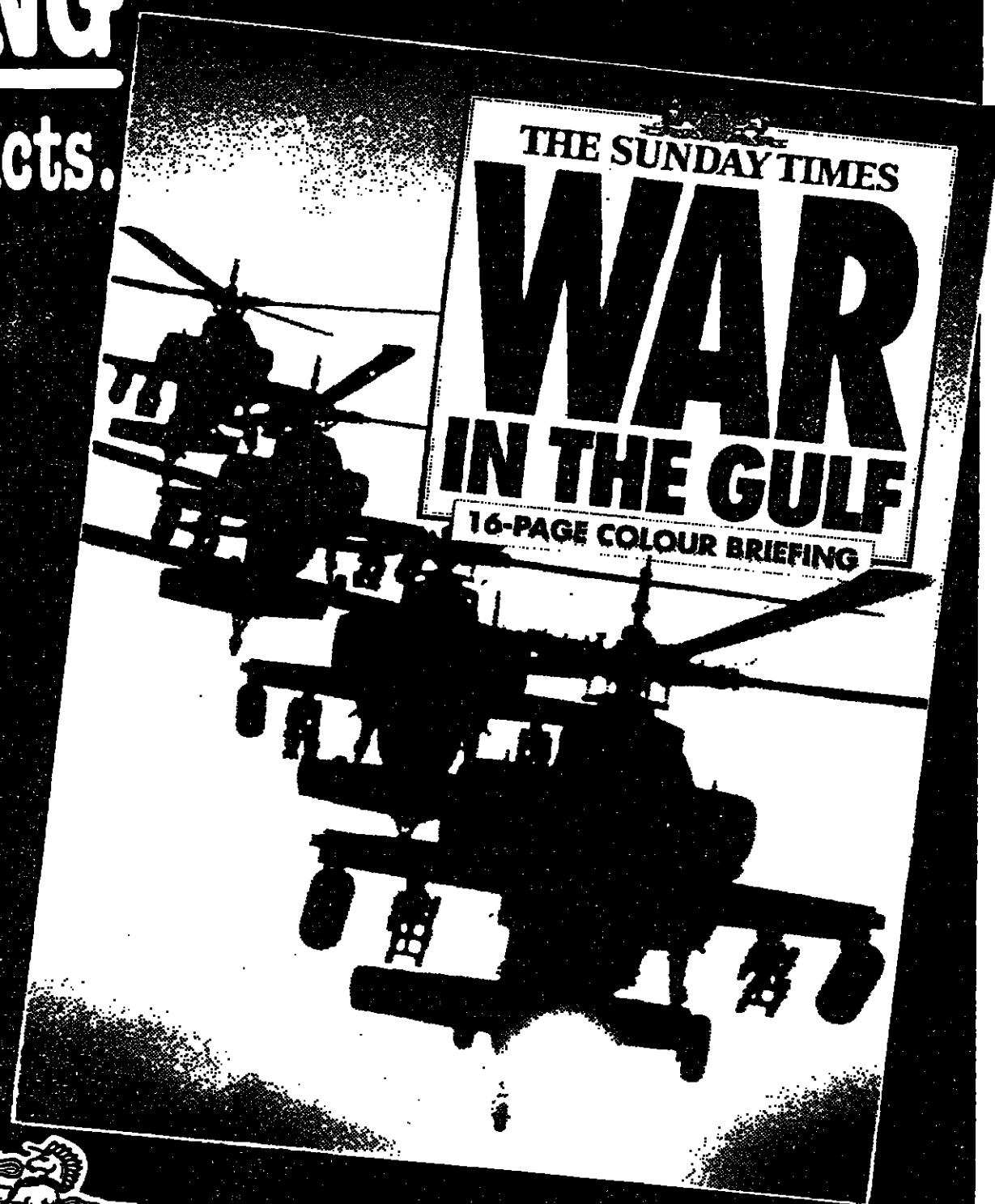
The rebels managed to drive the forces from Bougainville last March. A subsequent blockade of the island ordered by the prime minister of Papua New Guinea, Rabbin Namaliu, is reported by relief organisations to have caused further deaths through a shortage of medicine and house care. The island's communications were completely cut off.

Until now Australian relief agencies have been denied access to Bougainville, despite appeals for the Papua New Guinea and Australian governments to end the blockade. A mercy mission will be a priority, as the Honiara treaty opens the way for a resumption of supplies to the island.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES  
THIS SUNDAY



Much play is made by Utopian democrats of the fact that there has never been a war between two modern democracies. They conclude that in a world in which all countries were democratic, there would be no more war.

Hopes that the fashion for democracy which has infected Eastern Europe may now transform the Middle East seem a variation on the end-of-history theory. In this case, what is prophesied is the end of international conflict as we have known it.

This view of democratic societies as being reasonable and civilised, consequently not belligerent, may be more flattering than accurate. What is certain is that democracies are much less efficient in their arrangements for launching and executing war. Democracy, Tocqueville said, inclines toward the proliferation of bureaucratic decision-making machinery. One reason why democracies are unlikely to de-

clare war on one another may be that by the time both powers have cranked their way through their respective institutional consultation processes, the moment of confrontation has passed.

But the more serious reason why modern democracies do not initiate war against one another is to do with their concept of political virtue. The democratic principle itself has become, in our political culture, the ultimate inherent good. Any policy arrived at by democratic means becomes sacrosanct and cannot be transgressed by another democracy.

This assumption underpins virtually all of the debate on the current crisis. Peace protesters argue that Kuwait ought not to be

defended against aggression because its government is not democratic. (A Labour MP, Dave Nellist, said this week: "This isn't a war we should be in. It's not a war about democracy. It's about oil.")

Two crucial suppositions in such an attitude bear examination: that democracy is the only thing worth fighting for (as opposed, say, to economic stability or territorial security), and that if a country is democratically self-determining, there can be no moral grounds for fighting it. On the first point, it seems at least debatable that, for example, the danger of having a huge amount of the world's fuel supplies under the control of a ruthless murderer is quite sufficient ground for waging

war, and that the issue of democracy — of political organisation at all — need not come into it.

The historical grounding of the second point is complex. Since the French revolution it has been a premise of European political culture that governments are morally acceptable in so far as they express the will of the people. Rousseau's doctrine that men are naturally virtuous until they are corrupted by evil institutions leads to the tacit conclusion that if free men are permitted to determine policy, it will inevitably be virtuous. This can be transmuted, by a small leap in logic, to such policy is virtuous, by definition.

If your political ethic decrees that no democratic society may

ever be found so objectionable as to provoke war, you can face problems of credibility. First, you must seek to prevent democratic elections from going, in your own terms, the wrong way. Hence America's notorious tendency to forestall elections in countries where it fears the triumph of unfriendly forces. When the worst happens, as in Allende's Chile, and an unacceptable government is democratically elected, you must resort to covert destabilisation to bring it down, discrediting your own commitment to democracy in the process.

There is no reason why democracy in itself should ensure non-aggressive policy. The history of the 20th century demonstrates that the will of the majority is not necessarily peaceful. It is certainly true that the package of social attitudes, roughly labelled "democratic", that we have inherited in Western Europe, which relies on a concept of the rights of all individuals, inhibits us from trading casually in human lives.

But the secular rationalism which is an essential part of that package would not easily co-exist with the priorities of other cultures. Muslims living in Britain clash tragically with what they see as our godlessness, failing to understand that democracy (and its corollary, freedom of speech) is the religion of European secular society. Democracy will only be an antidote to unreason if reason-

ableness (which, as we understand it, means tolerance of the opinions of others) is already accepted as a virtue.

In one of Charles Schulz's Peanuts cartoons, the sensitive Linus confides to his misanthropic sister, Lucy, that he is keeping a collection of beautiful snowflakes in a box. "You can't keep snowflakes in a box, you keep them in a blanket," she replies scathingly. Deviant. Linus opens the box and sets it down outdoors. "You'll be pleased to know," he reports to her, "that I've set them all free."

The idea that freedom must be the cure for all dilemmas, that it is the ultimate, all-encompassing value, leads to the conclusion that when the people are free to express their political will, they will do no wrong. Tocqueville warned that this would become one more species of political dogma. It seems dangerously like a naturalistic fallacy: if "the good" is what people choose, what is it possible to say (or do) when the people choose evil?

Janet Daley cautions against a prevailing western faith that ballots will stop bullets

## Don't ask too much of democracy

Philip Howard

### Precisely, my dear surgeon

I am not persuaded by the surgeon as the emblematic saint of precision. I know that heart and brain surgeons (particularly if they are operating on small children) have become the secular saints of the bleeding-heart press and the new witch doctors who can ward off our modern great unmentionable, death. I should have thought that surgeons, take them for all in all, are just as famous for cutting off the wrong bit, and for leaving sponges inside you when they sew you up again, as they are for precision. The practice of medicine is a thinker's art, maybe, but surgery is a plumber's.

Nevertheless, surgical precision is the catchphrase to describe the astonishing high-tech accuracy with which huge missiles can be steered up a trouser leg from hundreds of miles away. For once, the generals are fighting a war with the weapons of the future rather than of the last war.

"Surgical precision" as a stock euphemism to take the awe, mystery and pain out of violence was introduced, far less suitably, during the Vietnam war. Surgeons are the last modern heroes, and their adjective, surgical, sounds professional, precise, and caring. This is a modern connotation. In the Middle Ages and before, surgery was regarded as a most imprecise skill, and was entrusted to the barbers, because they too used sharp instruments. All that the word meant in its original Greek form was hand-worker. *Kheir* means hand, as in chiropodist; *ergon* means work. Your surgeon is just somebody who works on you with his hands, let us hope with precision.

Clinical is another Greek word that has been turned upside down by modern medical professionalism and jargon. In Greek, *clinik* means bed. Until this century a clinic was a patient confined to bed. So what clinical ought to mean is having to do with the bedside manner, comforting, nursing. In practice it means the opposite of bedside manner: cold, sterilised, scientific, remote from the mess and emotion.

War is a boiling-over of language as well as of diplomacy. The Falklands affair brought the verb

"to yomp" to general notice, as well as the elegantly named but nasty Exocet, which is merely the name for a Latin flying fish. So far the Gulf has given us the RAF's triple-A, as a friendly nickname for anti-aircraft artillery. Our generation is in love with acronyms, abbreviations, strings of letters and numerals. So the young men and women in the Gulf humanise their elaborate armour against nuclear, biological, or chemical attack by referring to NBC suits. It makes them sound as normal as an everyday broadcasting company.

The euphemisms and nicknames of the soldiers are attempts to humanise war and nasty death by being cheeky about them. You do not talk about death, because it is morbid, and might bring bad luck. Accordingly, the pilots in the Battle of Britain spoke of one of their friends who was dead or missing, presumed dead, as having gone for a Burton. This was a reference to the heavy ale brewed at Burton-upon-Trent, rather than (a widely spread alternative etymology) to a suit made by Montague Burton, the tailor's. In this way they say that if you don't look sharp, you'll become an Elvis. Because, *pace* the nutters who claim he is still alive, we all know that Elvis Presley is history.

The war jargon invented by officials and administrators is less poetic than that invented by the airmen and soldiers. Support for the Vietnam war drained away with the miserable freight of its casualties back home in "body bags". Some linguistic and emotional nincompoop in the Pentagon has now instructed the media that these body bags are to be called "human remains pouches", which is supposed to sound more dignified and less harrowing than a body bag. Pouch is a military sounding word, used by soldiers, and more respectful than a bag. Human remains are less stark than body. But a cadaver by any other name smells no sweeter.

This is the kind of official obfuscation that gives euphemism a bad name. I bet the Scud-fodder in the sand have a more vivid nickname for the pouches. Slang that lasts is invented by men on the ground, not men behind desks.

### Conor Cruise O'Brien on the post-war opportunity for Israelis to forge a new relationship with their neighbours

Henry Kissinger has just proposed that a special and limited conference be held, when the Gulf war is over, for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute. The conference, chaired by the United Nations secretary-general, would be "composed of the United States, Israel, and the Arab states allied with America in the Gulf crisis".

Such a conference is most unlikely to occur, because the Arab states concerned will not wish to be seen sitting down with America and Israel at a conference from which are excluded other Arab brothers, such as the PLO (which all Arab states recognise as "the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people"). This does not mean that the present Arab allies will simply fold their tents and silently steal away once the war is over. On the contrary, they will still be bound by a common interest, continuous with that which now binds them. In the post-war period, that interest will be to ensure that Iraq does not again become a great military power. For that reason, the Arab states concerned will not merely accept, but will demand, a role as principal members of a United Nations observer group to monitor the Iraqi armed forces, which will be permitted only at a level which cannot threaten Iraq's neighbours.

This bond between the present Arab allies is a strong one, and likely to be a factor in the affairs of the region for a good many years, but it is not a bond that is likely to make them look for compromise on the Arab-Israeli dispute. In that matter, the present Arab allies will wish, in the aftermath of the present war, to reaffirm the orthodoxy of their pan-Arab commitment to the Palestinian cause. They will want to mend their fences with the PLO, which will have even stronger reasons for wanting to mend fences with them. The dangerous role of

"honest brokers" in the Arab-Israeli dispute is one which will have no appeal to the cool and realistic political minds which decide matters in Cairo, Damascus and Riyadh.

So a Kissinger-style conference is out. I do not think the chances are any better for the much wider type of international conference which the UN secretary-general appeared to have in mind in his statement this week. No Arab state will have any interest in a conference which excludes the PLO. Israel will not, of its own accord, sit down with the PLO. America, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, is unlikely to press Israel very hard on this issue. Yasser Arafat and the rest of the PLO, together with the Palestinian population, appear in the Gulf war openly as enemies not merely of Israel, but of America and its allies. If there is any tendency for Americans to forget that, the pro-Israel lobby in the United States will be on hand with reminders after the war, in the shape of quotations and photographs of Arafat and Saddam Hussein.

The influence of the pro-Israel lobby is not a constant; it has fluctuated over the years and has on the whole been in decline, from the beginning of the *infidada* to a recent trough in the general reaction to the Arab casualties on the Temple Mount. In recent days, Israel's reputation has benefited greatly from its restraint after Iraq's Scud attacks. Whether any of that benefit will be projected into the post-war period is uncertain, but the PLO is likely to be lastingly discredited in the United States. That is a solid gain for Israel, and provides, among other things, the factor which is likely to avert both a general conference and other forms of external pressure for it to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza.



The internal pressure, however, remains in the human cost involved in the governing of a large, growing and recalcitrant Arab population. But that internal pressure, combined with significant external pressure in the period before the Gulf war, did not bring about any movement in the direction of withdrawal on Israel's part. Israel will enter the post-war period with its diplomatic position significantly enhanced, mainly by reason of the discredit of the PLO in the United States. Under these conditions, the withdrawal of Israel from the territories is extremely unlikely. The Shamir government will certainly not agree to anything of the kind, and the Labour alignment, if in power, would not do it either.

The mere thought of the consequences of an attempt to uproot the Jewish settlements in the West Bank is enough to deter any Israeli government from a move in that direction. That would be the way towards a civil war, of Jew against Jew, and the death of Jew against Jew, and the death of Jew. For that elemental reason, no govern-

ment of Israel is going to choose that way, however desirable it may appear to outsiders.

In the post-war period, peace with Syria is likely to take a high place among Israel's objectives. Such a peace could be based on the return of the Golan Heights to Syria, with a pledge for their demilitarisation; a free hand for Syria in Lebanon, including southern Lebanon; and a Syrian guarantee that Lebanon would no longer be used as a base for fedayeen attacks on Israel.

The Syrians, for their part, have reasons for accepting some such settlement. The Soviet collapse has ended their dream of achieving "strategic parity" with Israel. And they have a common interest with Israel in the prevention of restoration of Iraqi armed might.

Peace with Syria would mean that Israel could be at peace with all its Arab neighbours. It would still have trouble with the Arabs who are within its present *de facto* borders, which include the West Bank and Gaza. Israel cannot now

withdraw from those areas without risking its own disintegration, but it can take steps that could create more tolerable conditions, both for the Arab population and for its own citizen soldiers. It could put some life into the "autonomy" promised by Menachem Begin at Camp David. It could hold the elections promised by Yitzhak Shamir, and without attaching strings. It could keep its forces away, as much as possible, from Arab towns and villages; a tendency already discernible in the later stages of the *infidada*.

Conditions after the war may be favourable to limited movement of that kind. With Iraq eliminated, and the PLO discredited in the West, Israel should feel less beset by external enemies, and more disposed to conciliatory measures — short of general withdrawal. And Iraq's elimination as a power centre will have removed the main external stimulus to Palestinian revolt. Some improvement is possible. But it will not proceed by way of conferences, whether limited or general.

...and moreover

### ALAN COREN

My tuxedo is a broken record this morning. Anyone can see that. Its zest is gone, its mohair nap is flat; its silk lapels have lost their healthy gloss; its buttons hang listless from their threads, like the eyes of clapped-out teddies. Were it a dog, I should have to scoop it up and rush it down to the vet for a prod and a powder.

What has brought this on is a faithless disappointment. The tuxedo, thought it was going well. Not to say dancies. For more than a month now, sleeve and trouser alike had dreamed of sporting avelte cosmopolites backwards through as chic a throng as ever foxtrots a welcome to the rising dawn, a rumba here, a samba there, pausing between rounds only to pop a crab claw down and slice its passage with Dom Perignon. For the event to which the tuxedo had been invited, so the gossip columns clarified, was to have been the knees-up of the year, where its shoulders would have rubbed those belonging to 500 of the rich, the famous, the powerful, the beautiful, the royal. Is it then any wonder that, today, they droop so glumly from their hanger?

Because today, the tuxedo received a letter. "Sadly," it was told, "in view of the current Gulf crisis, we have decided to postpone the party we had scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 1991. At such a grim time in the world, none of us feels a party would be appropriate."

Had the tuxedo nerveless fingers, this letter would have dropped from them. But since it

did not have fingers at all, the letter had to be read aloud to it, and the person reading it was thus in a perfect position to observe the tuxedo's first reaction. This was not disappointment — that came later, when the truth sank in — but disbelief. Surely, it was for just such moments as these that it had been tailored? Cometh the hour, cometh the suit?

Now, before you rush to outraged judgment on the tuxedo's insensitivity, pointing out that millions of decent people in this great country of ours are being forced, in these dark days, to sacrifice far more — such as having *Allo, Allo* pulled — and asking where a suit gets off complaining about losing nothing more than a night on the tiles, perhaps I should explain that the tuxedo did not come to this conclusion alone. It was heavily influenced by the suit which, for many years now, has hung beside it. This, too, is a tuxedo (though it prefers to be called a dinner-jacket) but of a far older cut and weight: a roomy double-breasted number, hewn from heavy black barathra, it belonged to the father of the tuxedo's owner, and now hangs in the offspring's wardrobe as the result of Time's behaving like an ever-rolling stream.

It is a pretty old suit. It was made for the father's 1935 marriage. But that was not its best time: its best time came five years later, when it suddenly started to go out and enjoy itself a hell of a lot. Its owner would come home on leave, climb out of his uniform and into his

dinner-jacket, and take his wife to all manner of places, like Ciro's and the Trocadero and the Savoy and the Aoe of Spades, where the suit would hurdle about to the strict tempo of Bert Ambrose and Roy Fox and Geraldo and Jack Payne and Snakehips Johnson, despite the fact that the night sky above these venues was regularly criss-crossed with searchlights, that the saxophones were periodically drowned by a more insistent wail, and that occasionally, when the suit was making its way home, it would notice that some of the buildings which had been there on its way in were there no longer.

And being an old suit, it will, naturally, not be slow to reminisce. Though the wardrobe's owner cannot be sure of the exact words, since his command of Suit is as inadequate as the next man's, his conviction is unshaken that the old dinner-jacket will be much given to evoking the spirit of the Blitz, when the cry was business as usual, and when, in bomb-shelter and nightspot alike, Mother Brown's knees were always up and *Rud, Adolf, Run* was the chart-topper, because it was all a matter of *nil carborundum*, and the last thing any Briton would dream of doing was letting some tinpot bloody dictator think he was having any effect at all.

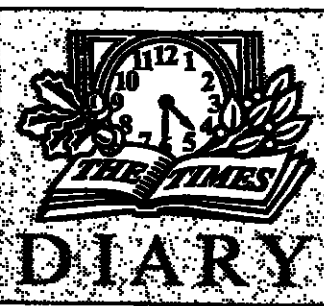
When, in short, anyone writing "At such a grim time in the world, none of us feels a party would be appropriate," ran the grave risk of instantly being identified as a fifth-columnist, and hanged from the nearest turned-round signpost.

### Too much rejoicing

As political commentators contrast John Major's quiet style of war leadership with Margaret Thatcher's more strident attitude during the Falklands campaign, the words "Rejoice, rejoice" have been used as a stick to beat the former prime minister. Academics, MPs and commentators have favourably compared Major's restraint with Mrs Thatcher's triumphalist, hymn-like phrase uttered on the steps of Downing Street. The only trouble is, her supporters now say, that just like Jim Callaghan's legendary "Crisis what crisis?", the words were never uttered.

The BBC's transcript of Mrs Thatcher's address to journalists on April 25, 1982, bears this out. After John Nott, the defence secretary, had announced the successful recapture of South Georgia, a reporter shouted at her: "What happens next?" Mrs Thatcher, clearly taken aback, replied: "Just rejoice at that news and congratulate our forces and the Marines. Goodnight, gentlemen." Sir Bernard Ingham, her press secretary, who was at her side, says: "I warned the prime minister beforehand that the first question would have nothing to do with the battle for South Georgia. She obviously forgot and when the first question came she reacted with astonishment that they were not interested in the success of the British operation."

Although several newspapers the next day used the headline "Rejoice, rejoice," *The Times* was not among them. Julian Haviland, political editor at the time, remembers the remarks well. "I reported them accurately because I took them straight off the television. She said 'rejoice' only once, but her remarks were taken up by Labour MPs who wanted to attack her for arrogating glory to herself." Subsequently Denis



Healey accused her of "glorying" in slaughter.

Mrs Thatcher's supporters also point out that her comments at the same stage of the Falklands war show that her allegedly jingoistic style was not very different from the approach taken by her successor during the present conflict. Asked about the likely outcome of the war as the taskforce sailed, she replied: "I am talking very quietly about succeeding in a very quiet and British way." Sentiments worthy of the restrained Mr Major himself.

### Moscow Burns

Forget Pushkin, Lermontov and Yevushenko. The Russians have adopted Rabbin Burns as their own, and plan to celebrate Burns night at the Kremlin early next month, a week after the traditional celebrations held in Scotland tonight. The Moscow event is being organised by Elizabeth Smith, wife of the shadow chancellor John Smith, a lover of Burns and a member of the Great Britain-USSR Association.

"I think Burns's philosophy is very close to the Russians," she says. "The Russians have a deep and long-standing love of Burns. He is part of their heritage and his poems are translated and studied by Russian schoolchildren. But this is the first time he has been celebrated in such style."

Guests will feast on 400 prime haggis flown from Scotland for the dinner, to be held in the splendour

of the Kremlin Palace of Congresses overlooking Red Square. "We have invited Mr and Mrs Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze," says Mrs Smith, who flies to Moscow next Monday. Anatoly Safulin from the Moscow Philharmonic will regale guests with a Burns song recital in Russian, and Tom Fleming will retell in the Scots' mother tongue. And for one night only, Scotch whisky will replace vodka as the Kremlin tipple, with a bevy of Scottish distillers sponsoring the event.



• The Russians may be dismayed to learn that, according to Edinburgh's leading haggis maker, John MacSween, haggis is not a Scottish delicacy after all. MacSween enraged his Scottish customers when he spoke on BBC Radio 5 last night, suggesting that the delicacy originated in ancient Greece. From there, he says, it passed to the Romans, although there is some dispute about whether it arrived in Scotland via France or England. To save the ultimate indignity of a prior English claim, MacSween came down in favour of the French theory.

### First casualty

Is the government about to appoint an unofficial "minister for casualties"? The cabinet's media committee, chaired by John

Wakeham, which meets most days immediately after the war cabinet, has been discussing how it should prepare the public for the heavier casualties expected once a land battle starts. Ministers, it has concluded, should use interviews and speeches to warn of the sombre possibility.

Most prominent in this role is likely to be Chris Patten, Tory party chairman and a member of the committee, who is unencumbered by other ministerial duties. Patten has had some recent training in dealing with casualties. When the 17-stone Tory whip David Lightbown called on him to discuss election strategy, Patten's newly delivered sofa proved unequal to the strain. Lightbown went straight through it. Although he was virtually unscathed, the three-seater sofa was beyond repair. To make matters worse, Patten has discovered that it is irreparable because the manufacturer, too, has gone bust.

### Musakal offering

Unofficial pluggers are something this Diary assiduously avoids, but an exception can be made for the latest project of the publishers Kogan Page. Managing director Philip Kogan is compiling *Musak-Free London: A Guide to Eating, Drinking and Shopping in Peace*. "It is getting harder than ever to find places free from this audio pollution, where ordinary conversation can be conducted," he says. Kogan is planning stickers saying "This is a Musak-Free Establishment" for those qualifying, and to date he has about 150 entries for the book, intended for early summer publication. He is anxious to hear from readers with further recommendations for inclusion, and the Diary will pass on all suggestions. Letters only please, if you want to avoid the Musak. *The Times* switchboard while it puts calls through.





## FREEDOM LOCAL POLITICS

The House of Lords yesterday decided that a local council, Hammersmith and Fulham, should not have managed its money in the way it did and that its bankers cannot reclaim any losses incurred. So council members were exceeding their powers, which gets local taxpayers off the immediate hook. But this is not good for the future of local government.

The powers of councils have already been too much eroded in the past decade. This erosion must be addressed in the government's poll tax review, now entering the critical phase, when those involved must not lose sight of the wood as they plunge into the trees. The Hammersmith affair asks the central question that the reformers must answer: how much discretion should be allowed to what is left of local democracy in Britain? Under the cloak of "restraining" left-wing councils, the Treasury has over the 1980s brought in a wide panoply of borrowing approvals, charge caps and centralised business rates. It has boosted the proportion of local income which it fixes, from some 40 per cent to over 75 per cent. The resulting assault on local accountability, indeed on democratic pluralism in Britain, was the sorriest chapter of the Thatcher era.

The form of the new, presumably property-based, local tax is less important than the freedom that councils are to enjoy in raising and spending it and the attendant responsibility. Without that freedom, including the freedom, subject to audit, to be extravagant and to exploit cash balances, accountability will not exist and local services will continue to decline. An incompetent council can simply tell its electors that central government is to blame.

The Hammersmith case is naturally music to the ears of the Treasury. Successive Chancellors have fallen on every sign of council misbehaviour to grab more power to "cure" it. The Treasury believes that the days when local voters could be trusted to hold councils responsible for local taxes are

past. Accountability should be restricted to the ever-wise Chancellor in Parliament. Whitehall is even now preparing another Treasury measure to extend tax capping. Like emergency powers in a banana republic, this will be described as a "purely temporary" constraint on democracy.

Local government is in a weak position against this attack. Well-publicised cases of incompetence — notably in union-dominated Liverpool and Camden — have lent succour to the enemies of democracy. The rottenness of much of city government, left in place by the Tories as a monument to Labour inefficiency, has given council services a bad name. The hope must be that John Major and Michael Heseltine, the one a former councillor, the other publicly committed to reviving localism, can see the value of vigorous local politics.

This means they must stand up to the Treasury and push through some tough measures of devolution. There must be no more rate-capping. Councils must be permitted to spend much more of the capital balances derived from the sale of assets. Why else should they bother to sell? Rate support and rate equalisation grants should reflect need and not reward profligacy, but electors (including electors as party members) should be free to judge whether councillors have spent well or badly. They should not be able to badger their MP to tell the environment department to cap their local council.

Mr Heseltine should be pondering other reforms of council structure to increase participation and to widen the talent pool of local leadership. But returning accountability to local voters should not have to wait on structural reform. If Hammersmith council misbehaves, it is a matter for the voters of Hammersmith. All democracy must be rooted in local democracy; kill it and the arrogance of central government will know no bounds.

## TOO ROUGH JUSTICE

A government in time of war must not allow a desirable end to justify undesirable means. The cabinet would certainly be criticised if a terrorist incident were the result of it failing to monitor Iraqi citizens living in Britain. Such monitoring can include deportation, and some deportations are now occurring. The procedures for the arrest and expulsion of these "undesirable aliens" may have to be somewhat arbitrary, secretive, even unfair. But they must adhere to natural justice. At present, they fail to do so.

This is a delicate matter. In peacetime the terrorist shows no concern about the chosen site of his attack. There is no reason to think Iraq's underground allies would show any reticence now. Meeting this threat will necessarily inconvenience the public. The army has moved into airports and baggage searches have been intensified. The public has been urged to be vigilant, the police are posting more guards. But the greatest threat must come from any of Saddam Hussein's supporters in Britain, an unknown number among the tens of thousands of Middle Eastern people resident here.

The Home Office has selected some 160 Iraqis and Palestinians for deportation. Their ejection has been ordered on the ground that they pose a threat to national security. The trouble only begins with the identification of those on the Home Office list. For if those on the list seem improbable terrorists, what does it say of those left off?

The list, compiled by the police Special Branch and MI5, includes a respected author and commentator on Arab affairs who has stood up for Israel and taken part in dialogues with Israelis. Jewish academics have sprung to his defence. One Palestinian, heading a business with 600 employees, was led from his office in handcuffs. Another stateless Palestinian has lived in Britain for 21 years and was granted permanent residence in Britain 18 months ago. Seven of the Iraqis have asked for political asylum. Others have British wives and children; a few, fearing the shattering of their lives, have

fled into hiding. These cases seem doubtful and do not cumulatively inspire confidence in the Home Office. Nor do previous examples of the accuracy of information in police files. When German aliens were rounded up for internment in 1940, they included Jewish refugees and outspoken anti-fascists. The list of those interned in Northern Ireland, when that was briefly the panacea against the IRA, included many peaceful and innocent citizens whose only offence appeared to be the possession of political views the RUC did not like. In 1978, a resident American journalist, Mark Hosenball, was deported on the evidence of one policeman and has not been allowed back since.

There is no right of appeal because the justification for such actions is "national security". Deportees can merely protest to a trio of Whitehall's ubiquitous "wise men", including a former official of the same Home Office. This charade is in secret. The deportees cannot be legally represented. The common law principle *audi alteram partem* — that nobody shall be condemned unheard — is useless to them, as they are barred from knowing the evidence and are therefore unable to contradict it. The review panel can do little but take the Home Office's word that they are a "risk". If a country cannot be found to take them, they will remain in Britain in detention, imprisoned without trial.

In espionage and terrorism cases, British courts have found ways of handling sensitive intelligence without gross prejudice to national security or to individual rights. In war, and in dealing with foreign nationals, national security does justify a lower burden of proof than in a criminal trial. But natural justice, as the name implies, should be available to everybody regardless of nationality. Kenneth Baker, the Home Secretary, should urgently commission an independent review of his deportation procedure. The public can have little confidence in his present one.

## MORE DAMNED STATISTICS

Churchill thought it necessary in the dark days of 1940 to make time for an administrative reform in Whitehall. "The utmost confusion is caused when people argue on different statistical data," he wrote to the secretary of the war cabinet. So he ordered the formation of a centralised statistical service. Yesterday it published its fiftieth birthday. It published a set of statistics comparing Britain now with then.

The statistics about statistics are striking. Starting with a staff of 24, the Central Statistical Office now has a thousand, a forty-fold increase. Some ingenious statistician will no doubt argue that this is not out of line, as the figures they have to handle are often 40 times bigger too.

Official statistics have a history much longer than that of the CSO itself. The first formal census of population was taken in 1801. Birth and death statistics began in 1836, collected in 1837, earnings statistics in 1886, and the first cost of living index dates from 1914. The formation of a central statistical service had two hundred years of civil service debate behind it.

That the civil service should be passionately in favour of statistics is a surprising. Their apparent neutrality is a surprising tool when the task is to stop politicians from giving rein to their instincts. In its radical days, the government regarded the civil service as just another vested interest in this matter, and brushed it aside. Industry complained of the burden of filling in forms, so the government committed

them in bundles to the flames. That phase now appears over, and the new prime minister, John Major, yesterday sent birthday greetings to the CSO in fulsome terms.

Government statistics, like those other two totems of modern rationality, opinion polls and market research, promise elucidation when otherwise all would be guesswork and romance. Yet it is questionable whether the productivity of statistics correlates exactly with their volume.

There are statistics that are wrong. Statisticians through the 1980s consistently underestimated the rate of growth of the British economy, so that a passionate economic and political debate was based on false premises. There are statistics which, though not wrong, are misleading. The Home Office's quarterly crime statistics convey no useful information about the actual incidence of crime, showing merely how much of it people trouble to report to the police. The misleading information drives little old ladies to cover behind locked doors because of a crime wave which may or may not exist.

Even when the statistics are right, they rarely have the impact on decision-making that their collectors would like. The statistics are churned out, the advisers pray them in aid, but, at the end of the day, the decision makers choose from them only the bits which support what they had wanted to do all along. Whoever heard of a politician changing his mind because of the facts?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Conflicting views on Gulf tactics

From Mr Bruce Kent

Sir, The legitimacy of the war now going on, because of the failure of the Security Council to observe the provisions of the UN Charter, is questionable. In any event the allies are morally and legally constrained from causing more loss of life, suffering and damage than is necessary in order to expel Iraq from Kuwait. They are also obliged by the Security Council's Resolution 678 to act in a way which will help to restore peace and security in the Middle East thereafter.

Most of the allied attacks so far have been directed towards Iraq's capability to launch further attacks on her neighbours. But power stations and other facilities necessary to support the life and health of the civilian population are now being targeted and Baghdad has been deprived of electricity, water and sanitation.

A land attack on Iraq or on Iraqi positions in Kuwait would involve heavy casualties to the troops on both sides. The great majority of Iraqi soldiers are conscripts, many of them very young. They are not so much Saddam's accomplices as his victims. There would also be many civilian deaths and injuries.

A land attack would increase Arab bitterness and hostility to the West and would make the achievement of a lasting settlement in the Middle East infinitely more difficult. The attack would have to be followed by an allied occupation of Iraq, which might be prolonged, and would probably lead to terrorist attacks on western targets.

For all these reasons, the allied forces should not launch a land attack, nor carry out bombing missions or artillery bombardments designed to pave the way for one.

The International Peace Bureau calls upon the states represented in the Security Council to move a resolution forbidding a land attack or preparations for it, and calling for an immediate supervised ceasefire.

to be followed by a conference to deal with all security issues in the Middle East.

Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE KENT (President,  
International Peace Bureau),  
11 Venetia Road, N4,  
January 21.

From Lady Olga Maitland

Sir, I hope the 34 Labour MPs who voted against the parliamentary motion supporting Britain's forces in the Gulf (report, later editions, January 22) appreciate their privilege in a free society to express such opposition without fear of reprisals, unlike politicians in Iraq, who get shot.

Public opinion has, according to polls, become more robust. What does concern me is the effect the CND and the Stop the War in the Gulf Committee are having on Saddam Hussein's assessment of our willingness to support military action. When will they learn that polite requests to an incorrigible bully will only play into his hands?

The Deputy Chairman of CND, Air Commodore Alastair Mackie, has argued that we should give sanctions a chance. What would be gained other than a respite for Saddam Hussein to build up his forces? He has never shown the slightest interest in negotiations. His insulting behaviour towards Señor Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary General, on January 15 is a prime example.

I hope that the anti-war movement will not abuse our freedom of speech by further encouraging Saddam Hussein, who can only be delighted with their activities. This therefore is the time for the silent majority to stand up proudly for Britain's role in the Gulf and for the multi-national force.

Yours sincerely,  
OLGA MAITLAND (Chairman),  
Facilities for Defence,  
6 Buckingham Gate, SW1,  
January 22.

### Women war reporters

From Mr Bob Jobbins

Sir, Libby Furves in her article on women war correspondents (*Life* and *Times*, January 21) might have mentioned two other recent examples. Lyse Doucet was based in Kabul in 1988, at the time of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. Elizabeth Blunt has only recently returned from covering the Liberian civil war. She was the first foreign correspondent to report on that particularly nasty conflict, and the only one present when the late President Doe was captured during the gun battle at the headquarters of the peace-keeping force.

Both were reporting for BBC World Service News. Yours faithfully,  
BOB JOBBINS (Editor),  
World Service News,  
BBC World Service,  
Bush House,  
PO Box 76, Strand, WC2,  
January 21.

From Dr Fred Hunter

Sir, Lady Florence Dixie went to South Africa for the *Morning Post*, only to find the first Boer war over by the time she arrived.

### Red route journeys

From Mr John M. Guttridge

Sir, Improved bus journey times, especially at peak times, on the initial red route are not surprising and are to be welcomed. But to declare the experiment a success and call for its rapid expansion (Mr King's letter, January 14) on the basis of a week's experience when traffic was lighter than normal seems more related to wishful thinking than reality.

The hidden costs to deliveries, postal and security services look like being considerable. One milk round has been extended by 1½ hours. Extra vehicles, adding to congestion, look like being necessary to maintain delivery schedules. And where is the money to come from which the CBI glibly suggests (letter, January 14) should be paid to

traders in compensation? Junction capacity, the real villain of the piece, means there is no speed-up for commercial vehicles trying to reach a delivery point.

All this for just 4½ miles of red route. Three hundred miles of red route will bring little opportunity for re-scheduling and this will mean many more delivery vehicles.

The shame is that we could have had the benefits with few of the problems. The new peak-hour bus lanes plus half the initial red route enforcement effort could have done the job.

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. GUTTRIDGE  
(Regional Director),  
Freight Transport Association,  
London & south-eastern region,  
Hermes House, St John's Road,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

### Testing for HIV

From Dr Joyce Wright

Sir, In the report (January 11) describing the risk to surgeons and theatre staff of contracting HIV infection from a patient, reference is made to an immediate test to show whether the patient's blood contains HIV antibodies.

However, this serological test shows only that the patient has been infected at some time in the past. As with other viruses, there is a period when the virus is present before the immune response to it develops. Thus, a negative serological result does not rule out infection. Indeed, this may well be the period of maximal infectivity.

This serological method is the one most used because the result can be issued within hours, whereas actual

isolation of the virus is a time-consuming method which may take weeks to yield results.

Just now, molecular biologists are much occupied with a new and sensitive method, known as the polymerase chain reaction (PCR), which allows amplification of DNA to a high magnitude.

The National Institute of Biological Standards and Control has established a reference centre for research into all aspects of PCR, with special emphasis on the detection of HIV. It is to be hoped that this work may throw light on the dark area where HIV is present but before the immune response develops.

Yours sincerely,  
JOYCE WRIGHT,  
40 Birch Road, Tillingham, Essex,  
January 19.

### Theatre polemic

From Miss Nancy Rintoul

Sir, I share Beryl Bainbridge's affection for the Liverpool Playhouse (*Life* and *Times*, January 14). I saw my first *Hamlet* there as a schoolgirl, giggling hysterically at the start when Hamlet lathered his black thighs in an over-ambitious leap from the battlements, and ending completely absorbed by the play.

But in recent years I have become one of the defectors — and not because of bingo or telly-addiction. Surely that argument is too simplistic. The truth is that the Playhouse, like so many other repertory companies, came to forget it was a

theatre at all and assumed a new role as evangelist for socio-political reform. Unfortunately a "Cause", however large the capital C or worthy the intention, does not guarantee a worthwhile play. Equally, *King Lear* is not enhanced by being reduced to a polemic on the plight of the old folks on a wet night in an uncaring society.

When theatre managements stop using the stage as just another tub to thump, then the audiences will return. And the Playhouse will pay its own way again.

Yours faithfully,  
NANCY RINTOUL,  
25 Brookdale, New London,  
Preston, Lancashire.

### Place of spelling in examinations

From Mr R. A. Whelpton

Sir, As chief examiner in French for a leading GCSE board I do not yet know how, or even if, I shall be required to implement Kenneth Clarke's policy on spelling (report, January 12) in this summer's examinations, but I have given the matter a good deal of thought — rather more, I suspect, than Mr Clarke.

He has said that he is only concerned that poor spelling and English should be penalised if they hinder the communication of ideas. But this is what already happens: if I read in a candidate's script a word or a statement which is spelt or expressed so badly that I am not clear what it means, then I do not award the mark, and that is the instruction I give to my examiners.

Secondly, candidates, parents and teachers may rest assured that, even if implemented, Mr Clarke's provisions will have little effect. In my subject, of the six written papers four would be covered by this instruction (the other two, being written in French, are not).

Since the maximum mark for each of these papers is between 27 and 32, the most severe penalty we can exact for bad spelling is a deduction of one mark (any further deduction would go beyond Mr Clarke's 5 per cent limit). The biggest headache would be for the examiners who have to decide where to draw the line between "good" and "bad" spelling before exacting this horrendous penalty.

Yours faithfully,  
R. A. WHELPTON,  
25 Hartlebury Way,  
Charlton Kings,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,  
January 22.

From Mr Roy Murray

Sir, Penalising children for poor spelling, in the forthcoming GCSE exams is welcome in principle. But it is unfair to change the rules in the middle of the game.

These children have been taught during a period when teachers have placed little regard on spelling. Mistakes in spelling in my daughter's marked homework are rarely commented upon. And it is difficult for parents to preach the importance of good spelling when there is no reinforcement by the school.

Better to introduce the improved standards next year and require teachers to attend spelling classes in the meantime.

Yours faithfully,  
ROY MURRAY,  
122 Sandy Lane,  
Cham, Surrey.

From Mr A. V. Craig

Sir, For the last nine years I have worked as a moderator and examiner in the various English disciplines. It is up to the school entering a candidate to produce medical proof of dyslexia (letter, January 22) and I have always been made aware by the board that a

candidate was to be given special consideration for this or any other medical or emotional condition.

The extra time allowed is not to improve the spelling of dyslexic candidates, but to permit them extra time to read the paper and to check their answer through afterwards: the problems of dyslexia are not confined only to spelling.

I would also take issue with P. R. Layton (January 22) who wants to deduct 5 per cent of my pay because my pupils cannot spell properly. Why deduct my pay? Better to deduct the 5 per cent pay from those persons who tell me what to teach and how to teach it without ever having stood blackboard-side of the teacher's desk themselves.

Yours etc.,  
A. V. CRAIG,  
56 Spratling Street,  
Ramsgate, Kent,  
January 22.

From Mr K. J. Watson

Sir, In all examinations you start from 0 marks and work your way up. You don't have 100 to begin with and "lose" marks on the way down.

Kenneth Clarke has managed to imply that pupils will "lose" marks. I cannot believe this. Surely when he meant was that there will be marks "available" for correct spelling.

His second mistake was to put a figure on the number of marks available. The notion that the examiner should dissect the exam script into markable chunks in this way is nonsense — it is the whole that is important.

Yours faithfully,  
K. J. WATSON,  
Pennys Place, 138 Ongar Road,  
Brentwood, Essex.

From Mr Aidan Reynolds

Sir, Spelling identifies the written word to achieve the precise meaning we want to convey. I would be worried if Mr Nuttall's student (January 22) were to turn to medicine. Would he understand the difference between "hypertensive" and "hypotensive"?

You cannot separate spelling from meaning. If you ignore misspelling, you are encouraging inaccuracy in expression and thought.

Yours faithfully,  
AIDAN REYNOLDS,  
The Grange, Canon Square,  
Melksham, Wiltshire,  
January 22.

From Dr Brian G. Baldwin

Sir, What's new? Fifty years later I can still remember the pain and anguish I felt when five marks were docked from my 100 per cent exam paper because I had headed it Chemistry.

I remain a retired chartered chemist.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN G. BALDWIN,  
3 St Mary's Court,  
Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan.

### Special Constables

From the Chairman of the Police Federation of England and Wales

Sir, Your leading article of January 21, "Volunteers on the beat" was disgraceful and will only serve to exacerbate relations between regular police officers and Special Constables.

You assert that "police objections (to the recruitment drive for Specials) should be treated as the professional jealousy of a trade union which likes its closed shop". You cannot be aware that as recently as last July the Police Federation, through its national magazine, described Special Constables as "the most public-spirited and pro-police people, whose own motivation is to be of service to the community and do something about the problems of crime".

We went on to criticise a small minority of our own members who ridicule and insult them and we argued that it was a "gross exaggeration" to say that they are used to reduce the number of our regular police that would otherwise be employed.

We also advocated plans to

extend the Special Constabulary and urged its employment in the expansion of neighbourhood watch co-ordination schemes.

The Police Federation is concerned that the best use is made of voluntary assistance offered by suitable people. However, neither you nor the government should pretend that an influx of Special Constables will make a major difference to the operational problems of the police service. They can assist only at the margin.

It is nonsense for you to assert that "the main handicap under which the police labour is not a shortage of manpower, but bad relations with the public". Whatever your view of the state of relations between the police and the public, if the press ever recorded approval ratings anywhere near those of the police in opinion polls, journalists would think that their millennium had arrived.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN EASTWOOD, Chairman,  
Police Federation of England and Wales,  
15-17 Langley Road,  
Sutton, Surrey,  
January 21.

### Radio 3 discord

From Sir Yehudi Menuhin, OM

Sir, In her article about Radio 3 (January 11) Janet Daley misrepresents one of the chief blessings of music — that of bringing us into direct contact with varying and strange cultures, different eras, styles, composers and performers. Surely it is this offering of an essential background for informed and sophisticated opinion and taste in all realms, from the political to the musical, that has created the very hallmark of British leadership and its standards, both broad and high, in so many spheres.

The new commercial classical music radio channel will no doubt profitably provide a favourite fare of most beloved works, on which, incidentally, no royalties will be owing and no musicians' costs incurred — an enviable condition for those who have to budget the finances requisite for the fees of live performances, new compositions and all the other benefits offered by the third channel. We will need Radio 3 as it is now more than ever.

Yours faithfully,  
YEHUDI MENUHIN,  
4 & 5 Primrose Mews,  
Regents Park Road, NW8.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

### Taking a bow

From Mr Paul James

Sir, At all 130 concerts presented by Music at Oxford every year male soloists and conductors are each presented with a bouquet of flowers as are their female colleagues (letters, January 15, 19, 24). This practice obviously delights "ritualists and audience alike".

Yours faithfully,  
PAUL JAMES  
(Artistic Director),  
Music at Oxford,  
Cannor Hill, Oxford.

From Mr Alan Blyth

Sir, Male participants at events on the South Bank and at Wigmore Hall now receive bouquets of flowers just like their female counterparts. That is how it should be in these days of sexual equality.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN BLYTH,  
11 Boundary Road, NW8.

From Mr Nigel Douglas

Sir, As a young singer in a small Swiss house I was once presented with a package which bled slightly and turned out to contain two pieces of beefsteak — an admirable assessment of an indigent tenor's requirements.

Yours sincerely,  
NIGEL DOUGLAS,  
Eythorne House,  
Eythorne, Dover, Kent.













Clothed in hope: "I am too depressed to decide to wear anything, to go out," ambassador's wife Taibah al-Rayes says

## When the wealthy wake up to nothing

There are two kinds of tears being shed by Kuwaitis in Britain. One kind is for the tortured, the imprisoned, the disappeared. The other is for the lives of the Kuwaiti ambassador, Ghazi al-Rayes, and Taibah al-Rayes, his wife, as their community in Britain suffers.

"A man of about 65 came into the embassy saying: 'Look, I am a multi-millionaire, but my money, my office buildings are in Kuwait. I went to the bank with my credit card and a letter, begging for money, but they refused.' And then he started to cry. In my office," says Mr al-Rayes. He managed some sympathy and £500 for the destitute millionaire, all the more hard to give when his wife was dealing with sorrow of a greater kind.

Soon after the Iraqis invaded on August 2, Mrs al-Rayes's only brother, a major in the Kuwaiti army, disappeared for three weeks. He was returned on the back of a truck filled with other prisoners. The Iraqi soldiers

In London the Kuwaiti ambassador and his wife are working to relieve the financial and emotional suffering of their community stranded here, while coming to terms with great personal losses. Kate Muir reports

knocked on the family's door, waited for someone to come out, and then shot her brother. It was only when the family took the man's body from the pavement that they saw his fingernails were missing.

Mrs al-Rayes can hardly think about his death and his torture, let alone talk. "I knew I was going to cry," she says. "but it is important people do not forget this is still going on in my homeland. If my brother had died fighting it would somehow have been better, but the thought of him being tortured and no one being there to attend his funeral cannot be forgotten." Her 20-year-old cousin was executed too, one of an estimated 4,000 deaths in what

she calls "these six months of nightmares".

Nightmares have replaced the diplomatic parties that filled evenings before the invasion. Banquets for two dozen on the best china service embossed with tiny Kuwaiti ships (the country's emblem, from its time as an unworried fishing port) have given way to finding flats and medical care for those thrown out of British hotels and hospitals when their credit cards ran out. Charity benefits, the Arab Women's Council and the traditional diplomatic wives' Spring Fayre have all been dropped to aid those closer to home. And Mrs al-Rayes, aged 51, is a different creature, having taken austerity measures with her appearance, reflecting the difficulties around her.

No designer suits now, which would have complemented the decor in the official residence in Kensington — mirrored like a mini-Versailles, and weighed down by gold leaf. Instead she is all in black, with a Free Kuwait sweatshirt, and her hair pulled tightly back. "I am too depressed to decide to wear anything, to go out. Life has changed so much I no longer know what will happen."

For most Kuwaitis here, the sudden descent into poverty has been terrifying. "They went to bed wealthy and woke up owning nothing at all," the bank accounts lead up, the shopping had to stop, and suddenly the patrons of Mayfair hotels found a two-bedroom flat acceptable accommodation for ten people. The Kuwaiti business community, used to spending the hours between transactions in the restaurants and cafes of London's Edgware Road, are now drinking Arab coffee as though it were a full-time occupation. Fortunately the government has huge overseas assets, mostly with the Kuwait Investment Office in London, and pays rent and an allowance of £300 a month for adults and £240 for children to many of its 7,000 stranded nationals.

They feel their only sin was to be rich; the opulence just over the border had Saddam salivating. He trashed the place with medieval vigour. "There is nothing, nothing left. We will have to build everything from scratch once the war is over," says Mr al-Rayes, aged 55, amazed still by the thoroughness of the pillage. "Do you know he even dismantled the funfair rides, took our equivalent of Disneyland to Baghdad? Our school buses run in their streets as public transport. And who in their right mind dismantles traffic lights? Kuwait just became a huge open-air supermarket, and they took anything they wanted. Free."

As he talks, he slides amber prayer beads through his fingers. In his office CNN's television news buzzes in the background 24 hours a day, and a green computer glows with the Reuters news wire. A small Kuwaiti flag sits hopefully on top of his video recorder, awaiting good news instead of bad.

His chief worry at the moment is whether Israel will start to retaliate. "By dragging Israel into the war, Saddam will mobilise all the Iraqi people behind him, even though he is hated in his own country because of his atrocities. If Israel strikes civilian targets causing loss of life, it will affect the whole Arab world. All the Muslims will be behind him then. Anyway, Israel's got, what, 50 or 60 extra planes, so what difference will that make to the allies?" And now that Iraq has blown up some smaller oil fields,

Mr al-Rayes fears Saddam will carry out his threat to turn Kuwait into a "great graveyard". "Well, he has fulfilled his promises up to now, so who knows what stupidities he is capable of? He really doesn't care now what anyone thinks of him, or he would not show those pilots in that state on television. He is carried away with his own power."

Such actions still seem incomprehensible to many Muslims. Mrs al-Rayes included. "The prophet Muhammad taught us to care for our neighbours, whatever their religion, yet Saddam is doing this to fellow Muslims, fellow Arabs. I don't understand. We invested in his country and there were many intermarriages, and now this." The Kuwaitis were just quietly getting on with being rather well off, enjoying their free schools, hospitals and subsidised housing, when Saddam's tanks rolled in like a biblical plague. It was as if a curse was on the royal al-Sabah family, which had ruled the tiny state for 200 years, and is waiting in exile in Saudi Arabia. Some 50 of the 1,200 family members are in London; asking for Mr al-Sabah at the heavily-guarded embassy can result in a posse rather than a person.

Kuwaiti diplomats have no doubt their country will be returned to them, however bruised and battered. They suspect the war must end before Ramadan, the holy month of fasting by day, which begins on March 17. Nobody wants to visit Mecca while it is surrounded by the American infidel, even if that infidel is proving somewhat helpful at the moment. Afterwards, the money to rebuild, an estimated £35 billion, will ooze — as it always has — out of the oil-rich ground.

The ambassador is courageous about the task ahead. "Replacing buildings," he says, "is a great deal easier than replacing lives, particularly of our young men." The embassy estimates 25,000 people are unaccounted for in Kuwait. Some may be refugees, some have been taken to Iraq, some have gone home. He believes the new Kuwait will be improved "both materially and politically", and this may be an oblique reference to plans for democratisation. The opposition's forum, the national assembly, was dissolved in 1986.

Generally, the conflict has caused the Kuwaitis to pull together, both in Britain and at home. Three Kuwaiti-owned private hospitals in London took patients who were rejected elsewhere when their bank accounts were frozen: it was only later that they were accepted by the NHS. Others shared their homes. In Kuwait City, businessmen have distributed free food from storage depots. Mrs al-Rayes adds: "People always thought we had it easy, that we were spoilt and wealthy, but the invasion has shown how courageous the Kuwaiti people are. Everyone has resisted the Iraqis, and many hid British hostages at great risk to their own lives. There was no collaboration with the Iraqis, and if it happened again we would resist pay the price."



Ghazi al-Rayes

*'Replacing buildings is a great deal easier than replacing lives, particularly of our young men'*

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## CLASSICAL MUSIC

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These things are fortuitous, of course, but the bicentenary of Mozart has arrived at an interesting moment of change and possibility in the way his music is performed. Two decades ago the celebrations would have been safely in the hands of standard chamber orchestras — the London Mozart Players, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields — all of them performing a repertoire from Bach to Stravinsky without worrying too much about changes in instrumental technique along the way.

Now, when the South Bank holds its "Mozart Now" festival in the late summer, the performing ensembles will be chosen from among those specialising in period style: the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the London Classical Players, the English Baroque Soloists, the English Concert, the Orchestra of the 18th Century. And the first of these groups has again been engaged by Glyndebourne, this time for two operas.

To see this as a Sarastrian victory for the forces of light against the historically unaware and, of course, totally inauthentic ways of the recent past would be easy, and this conflictual metaphor has certainly been used by some proponents of period style. Allies in aesthetic battles, however, tend to be fighting for quite different ends, and the result is usually something altogether new and unexpected rather than a victory for either side. So it seems to be proving here. The authenticity movement is not one thing but many: the smart, up-tempo Roger Norrington and the yielding René Jacobs, the dancing John Eliot Gardiner and the severe Sigiswald Kuijken. No longer is there any consensus even about fundamental questions, such as orchestral balance or the permissibility of string vibrato. Instead the whole range of musical knowledge and discipline has been broadened, leaving individual musicians to find their own ways.

This has made it possible for the "opposition", represented by established, general-purpose ensembles, to learn and adapt to the new customs, sometimes with the help of "authentic" conductors (Andrew Parrott, Christopher Hogwood), sometimes without. Of course, there remains the difference that the London Classical Players use copies of early wind instruments, whereas the London Mozart Players do not, but in every other respect the lessons of period style are being assimilated by the more traditional orchestras, just as the back-to-gut-strings school are learning that you do not have to make a scraggy sound in order to prove you have read the 18th-century treatises.

One sign of the changing atmosphere came this week in

three South Bank concerts given by Sir Georg Solti, whose career as a Mozart conductor goes back to the big-band days of the 1930s, but whose performances with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe showed decisively that he and they have absorbed the developments of the last decade. In his orchestral programme, as in his performance of *Figaro* about which I wrote on Wednesday, he used a relatively small string ensemble, able to take semi-quaver runs at his zestful speeds and still stay perfectly together, and able also to flick quickly between different dynamic levels: this skill, and the breathtaking pianissimo these players could achieve, brought particular musical point and beauty to their performances of the "Haffner" and "Jupiter" symphonies.

Here too was another "authentic" trait: the individuality of the wind colours, and the emphasis less on suave blend than on a counterpoint of differences. The flute and oboes of the "Jupiter" were heard in beautiful interplay; bassoons were nicely prominent; and the horns



Solti: zestful speeds

sounded out with the touch of rustic impropriety they normally have only in period ensembles. These performances also gave the lie to the notion that 18th-century size ensembles cannot make a full effect in 20th-century size concert halls: when everything is so well played, and presented with such intelligence, keenness and interest, the ear is drawn into the scale of the sound.

Nothing could have demonstrated that better than Anne-Sophie Mutter's performance of the Violin Concerto in A. For much of the time, and particularly in the slow movement, she played in levels of extreme delicacy, but her projection was so striking and sure that everything was heard. And Solti and the orchestra partnered her marvelously, covering the gamut from (just to take the finale) the gentle wit of the main theme to the careering wildness of the Turkish-style episode. The days of massed-string symphonic Mozart may be over, but that does not mean there is nothing to be discovered and revealed by outstanding musicians from the mainstream.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

## GALLERIES

## Not eccentric, rather great

John Russell Taylor on the inescapable conclusions that Stanley Spencer was Britain's foremost 20th-century painter, and that the surrealist Man Ray was at his most formidable when least serious

During his life, and now even in this, the centenary year of his birth, Stanley Spencer has always been in danger of dismissal by faulty labelling. The epithet "English eccentric" tends to terminate serious consideration. Not all English eccentrics are cosy; on the other hand they are, almost by definition, minor league.

Spencer was never, even early on, a comfortable artist. His preoccupation with religion would have made him an oddity in the interwar years, even if his brand of religion had been much more conventional. His preoccupation with sex might have made him more readily acceptable, but unfortunately he mixed sex with religion, and not even in the sleek and confident way that Eric Gill liked to combine them.

The figures in Spencer's erotic dream-life were awkward, ungainly and sometimes downright ugly. There was none of what the world sees as glamour about his erotic entanglements. And was it right, people wondered, that this should be mixed with life, death and (particularly) resurrection in the everyday context of a small country town?

"Ah well, he's eccentric, isn't he?" — that was the usual response. Thus, nobody looked closely at what he said and how he said it in paint. He could be indulged, like an unruly child in a nursery. Every now and then he painted a portrait, a landscape, or something else uncontroversial, which came as a relief, and many of his Cookham resurrections could be quite easily assimilated into a Bejansque view of life. So he became, with only a few minor hiccupps, a "Grand Old Man", returned to the Royal Academy after storming out, and was accepted as a British institution.

But that was not the end of the story. A few scattered voices started suggesting that he might, after all, be the greatest 20th-century British artist. That feeling was boosted by the Royal Academy's giant *Spencer Painting in the 20th Century* show, in which, to British amazement, the artists who created most excitement among foreign visitors were Spencer and Edward Burra, another "English eccentric". What had been unthinkingly marginalised suddenly began to look like the hub.

In this context, the Barbican Art Gallery's centenary show, subtitled "The Apotheosis of Love", could hardly be more opportune. True, it concentrates on a particular theme, or rather nexus of themes, in his work: the area where sex and religion are most inextricably fused. But this is reasonable, in that



Tension: Stanley Spencer's "Love Letters", in which "two adults huddle like children in what appears to be a gigantic armchair"

Spencer himself thought this was the centre of his message.

The show also attempts to recreate, in spirit at least, one of Spencer's major intentions over many years, a "Church-House" that would offer an integrated statement of his views on life, which he believed to be guided and shaped by love, both sacred and secular, and with no sense of essential difference between the two. Hence his recurrent fascination with the Last Day, which was for him not the Day of Judgement, but the day of Resurrection, in which loved ones would be reunited without petty jealousies, all being one in the eyes of the Lord.

This sort of formulation contains its own problems, however. There is always the danger that such a painter, believing in the central importance of his subject-matter, is judged entirely in terms of what his paintings are "about". In Spencer's case, as the Barbican show makes clear, his favourite subjects frequently produce the boldest formal solutions. What is most evident

about these 65 pictures is their furious dynamism. Mysterious centrifugal forces tear them apart, even as a gravitational pull binds them together. Complex magnetic fields draw figures together here, and drive them apart there, across the wide panoramas. Spencer particularly employed for his village resurrections.

In what ought to be the mildest domestic scenes, such as "Love Letters", in which two adults huddle like children in what appears to be a gigantic armchair, or "At the Chest of Drawers", in which a little man looks to be in imminent danger of crushing by an enormous woman who leans dangerously over him, the arrangement of the canvas creates considerable tension.

Love, whether sacred or secular, rarely seems to be for Spencer a quiet avocation. Even when he is, rather weirdly, hymning "Love Among the Nations", the embraces of black, white and yellow are highly dramatic, fraught with doubt and confusion as well as love and

understanding. This complexity is conveyed as much by Spencer's overall mastery of composition as by his eye for the odd, illuminating detail.

The Spencer show is exciting on every level: it includes some rarely seen pictures, and makes new points about well-known ones, such as the Tate's notorious "leg-of-mutton" double nude, by virtue of the context in which they are shown.

For once, the exhibition could hardly be wished any larger: it exists at such a high level of intensity. The presence in the upper gallery of a second exhibition, devoted to Man Ray: The Bazaar Years, comes almost as a blessed relief.

Could that have been something a true-blue surrealist like Man Ray would have expected, let alone intended? In principle, probably not: before the release into free association had to come the tending and the shock. But even the most committed surrealist could hardly maintain himself at that point of intensity all the time: sometimes he had to take time out for jollification, as well as for making a living.

Man Ray combined all these aims remarkably well by taking photographs regularly for various glossy magazines of the Twenties and Thirties. His short list of desiderata for such work was "line, colour, texture and, above all, sex appeal": a formula that can hardly be faulted.

The conclusion, in Man Ray's case, must be that the marginal works and commercial derivatives of pure surrealism are often more imaginative and certainly more

endearing than the thing itself. Frequently, when surrealist photography asks to be taken seriously as art, the result is a feeling of inflation and pretentiousness. When the same kind of free-wheeling fantasy is turned to the more mundane uses of the fashion industry, the results are equally provocative, and with an extra element of incongruity built in.

Besides, it was a good way of proselytising for certain kinds of modern art which, when encountered in an art gallery, provoked alarm and despondency. The known elements, the built-in interest of the subject matter, eased the passage of the dangerously unfamiliar, teaching people to relax and enjoy it and, if they chose to laugh, be sure they were laughing with rather than at it.

Man Ray, in his odd way, is an extremely practical fashion photographer. As well as indulging his fantasies, he always manages to show off the clothes, which are his essential subject, very well. If he picks an odd angle, it is partly because the shock value makes readers sit up, but also because it tells them more about the hat or the dress than something more conventional would.

He is not downgraded as an artist by the suggestion that he is at his best in his applied art, which becomes fine art because he cannot do it any other way.

Stanley Spencer: The Apotheosis of Love and Man Ray: The Bazaar Years. Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-588 9023) Mon-Sat 10-6.45 (Tues to 5.45, Thurs to 7.45), Sun 12-5.45, until April 1

## RECORDS: ROCK

## Sweat, threat and charm

ALEXANDER O'NEAL has often shoehorned his rumbustious personality into the sort of slurring, boudoir-soul routine that is second nature to his more refined peers Freddie Jackson and Luther Vandross. However, he throws the softy-softy approach to the wind on *All True Man*.

Coming out of the traps like a rodeo bull, with an up-tempo Prince groove called "Time is Running Out", O'Neal humps and pumps until he sounds fit to burst. He continues to work up a fearful sweat with "The Yoke (G.U.O.T.R.)" and "Every Time I Get Up", a refrain that can be read several ways.

Alexander O'Neal: *All True Man* (Tabu 465882 2) Motörhead: 1916 (WTG 467481 2) Pete Atkins: *The Clive James & Pete Atkins Songbook 1967-1974*. Touch has a Memory (RCA PD74853)

A couple of ballads tucked away at the end of the album ("The Morning After" and "Shame") suggest a mildly detumescent mood. But, for the most part, *All True Man* is an explosive portrayal of O'Neal as a party animal on the rampage.

Having made a reputation by playing loud enough to shake the fillings out of the

teeth of anyone foolish enough to get too close, Motörhead have not left themselves a lot of room for growing old gracefully. The grandfathers of thrash have signed a new record contract and moved to Los Angeles to record 1916.

The album opens in time-honoured fashion with a flailing double-bass drum beat and cacophonous guitar. "I make love to mountain lions," yells Lemmy in a voice that remains as expressive as a road drill. By way of a change they attempt a couple of Chuck Berry-style rockers, "Going to Brazil" and "Angel City", but their approach is too manic to capture anything like the intended "good-time" mood.

However, several of the slower songs prove surprisingly tuneful: "Nightmare/The Dreamtime", "Love me Forever" and "1916" itself, which Lemmy attempts to sing like a choirboy. Besides, any recording bearing the legend "This album is ozone hostile" cannot be all bad.

Before he became famous in other fields, Clive James plied a more modest trade as the lyric-writing partner of the singer-composer Pete Atkins. *The Clive James & Pete Atkins Songbook 1967-1974* is a compilation lifted from several albums released over that period. Song lyrics were not the ideal vehicle for James's linguistic facility; confined within rhyming couplets, his barrages of *bon mots* tend to resonate with the pinpoint accuracy of cluster bombs. The song arrangements are often needlessly ornate, and Atkins's singing style is infused with the dry, inexpressive quality fashionable in England long ago. Yet as a period piece, the album exerts a quaint charm.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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# Fusion of all that is good

## OPERA

### Duke Bluebeard's Castle/Oedipus Rex Coliseum

GOOD opera productions fit the music; great opera productions create contexts in which the music simply has to happen. This can occur, of course, only if there is a fusion of resources, and when it occurs that fusion is sealed and strengthened. It is therefore hard to know quite who to praise first for the new English National Opera production of Bartók's lone opera, *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*.

Mark Elder in the pit gives one of the performances of his career: this sumptuous, dark and dramatic score is powerfully projected in every bar, and the great climaxes are such as I have never before heard in this theatre. There are also quite outstanding performances from Sally Burgess and Cerynne Howell in the work's two roles: again, one is just not used, even with this company, to people entering their roles so surely and completely that they do not seem to be performing at all.

However, since the production has already staked its high claims before the music starts, the responsibility must be given to director David Alden. We begin with the spoken prologue being delivered in Hungarian by an unseen male narrator, and then taken over in English - and with a contemporary, feminist punch - by an actress, Paola Dionisotti. Fairytale is to be replaced, the implication is, by a modern morality, and at first it seems that the male-centredness of the opera is going to be shown up by nice people who now know better. The piece would certainly be met for such treatment. Its story of a new bride badgering her husband for access to his secrets has always been a contest between decent masculine reserve and feminine unwillingness to let matters rest. Alden, however, challenges this inter-



Art that conceals her art: Sally Burgess as Judith in *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* at the Coliseum

pretation from within, and presents an opera in which both man and woman are uncomprehending victims. The physicality of the production - the way these two magnificent performers use the whole of their bodies and the whole of the acting space, spending a lot of the time sprawled on a steeply raked floor - brings out the nature of their mutual attraction, while Nigel Lowery's set, an unfurnished room of tilting angles lit in brilliant scarlet, emphasises their confinement by forces they cannot understand.

This Bluebeard appears not to know what lies behind the seven doors (actually one and the same door opening seven times); both partners are losers as their relationship slips away without either of them having the power or the knowledge to prevent it. The metaphor could be explained in many ways: these could be two people at the mercy of society, of

history, of themselves, of each other, of God. Its versatility is part of its strength and truth.

But the strength and the truth come also out of the performances. Burgess and Howell have to sing in a great variety of positions, but in a sense one stops noticing they are singing at all: they are simply behaving as these people have to behave, doing what they have to do. Burgess, not surprisingly, has nothing to do with the eager, inquiring, virginal way of presenting Judith: she is her own woman, not asking questions but making demands, and the production rightly makes her role more active. Howell, while projecting a marvellously warm, firm singing line, at the same time looks and sounds like a man confused. Both performers take immense risks; so too does the production. But risks are necessary for achievements of this order.

There are a great many risks, too, in the preceding performance of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*, but here the necessity is distinctly less: indeed, it is quite extraordinary how the same producer and the same designer can in one evening be so startlingly right and so utterly wrong. And their wrongness seems to be communicating itself also to the principal singers. Philip Langridge has lost the thrill in his voice, and his sentimental ending of his last aria is a sheer mistake. Jean Rigby has some imposing moments as Jocasta, but the part seems to lie too low for her. There are some compensations: an excellent Shepherd from Peter Brander, strong performances from Malcolm Donnelly and Peter Siddons, and lusty choral singing. But the main business is elsewhere.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

## THEATRE

### A Free Country Tricycle

THIS disconcertingly unimoving play by Jean-Claude Grumberg is the central scene of a trilogy, concerned, in the first play, *Dreyfus*, with a family of Jews in Poland before 1939 and in the third play, *The Workshop*, with the bewildered survivors in Paris after 1945. *A Free Country* was the last of the trilogy to be written and is currently playing in Paris, with the author in the role of the Jewish husband, Simon.

The setting is a whitewashed farm building on some wooded hillside in Vichy, France beautifully suggested in Stephanie Howard's wide, deep set of smudged

walls and sun-bleached chairs. At the start of the play, the owner, Maury (James Grant), brings in a group of travel-weary Jews who have made the crossing from Nazi-occupied France and have somehow hit upon a Frenchman ready to shelter them.

The party is made up of Simon, his wife, her pregnant sister, her senile mother and a nephew, and all but one of them will still be there ten years later at the Liberation. They worry, they bicker, the old mother (Miriam Karlin), complains that her mattress is filled with outshells. Simon (Henry Goodman) fidgets, tells weak jokes, talks endlessly - in fact so much so that until he drops out of the action the play looks in danger of becoming a monologue briefly interrupted by rebukes.

Grumberg appears to have set himself two aims. The first is a

portrait of a Jewish family continuing to bother itself with all the petty awkwardnesses of life away from home. Over the hills horrible things are presumably happening but little of this impinges on their small talk. Especially the attitudes of the women, but also the bickering of Simon and a visiting refugee, seem weirdly disconnected from the reality of their predicament. Nor does this come across as a desperate blocking out of the horror. It is almost as if the war were someone else's affair.

Grumberg's second aim is to show in Maury a humane Frenchman doing the decent thing. Here again, though Grant professes his home-made liqueur and growls away like a bluff uncle, the character has little substance.

The passage of time is never established, which makes the refusal of the flanking trees to come

into leaf yet more bewildering. Suddenly the bells ring out, from a church that appears to have been built overnight in the wings, and everything is going to be alright.

Well, not everything: Simon's bitterly ruminative speech after his return from Paris pictures a future where children are haunted by memories of the dead. This is finally spoken by Goodman, in sober tones deliberately contrasting with his earlier exuberance. But except for this scene, a line about dyeing parachute silk with walnut juice, and the "surprise" end, the play's thin writing fails to hold attention. Nicolas Kent's dreamy direction must take part of the blame but the greater part belongs to Grumberg for draining the dramatic interest from a theme of such potential.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## THEATRE

### Lady Bracknell's Confinement Battersea Arts Centre

FROM off-stage we hear the concluding dialogue that happily resolves *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The lights go up on an agitated Lady Bracknell, plucking up courage to break terrible news to Jack Worthing. He cannot marry Gwendolen since she is - his sister. And, more staggeringly still, as the peevish informs us with a baritone throb, "I am her father."

Advance publicity makes no secret of this 55-minute monologue being a drag act. But if you expect high camp, knowing innuendo and in-jokes, be warned. A plot as preposterous and as cheerfully acceptable as *The Importance* itself is recounted straight, and leaves us disturbed and moved as well as entertained.

The young author, Paul Doust, manages some fine and exaggerated Wildean pastiche to tell the story of the Stepmother and whose life was changed when he stood in for Miss Betty Friddle, "an actress of fluctuating age and measurements." (Those who suspected Lady Bracknell's *haviour* to be essentially a product of a proletar-

ian view of aristocracy are justified.) The tangled web that he wove led him to meet "the man who was to marry me and go mad", but necessitates a coy cop-out as to the sexual manipulations resorted to.

This is not a tease, however. Paul Clayton, an ex-RSC actor, dispenses with high voice and padded bosom, contenting himself with taking the predicament seriously while occasionally, terrifyingly, recalling Dame Wendy Hiller. The author allows himself one in-joke about "Edith, a bewilderingly eccentric young milliner in my employment with theatrical leanings". The ex-milliner called Edith who graced the

stage still lingers in folk memory as a great Lady Bracknell.

Christopher G. Sandford's production was seen on the London fringe in 1989 and, most successfully, at last year's Edinburgh Festival. It keeps us absorbed through a tale of thwarted love, frustration and heartbreak, unfolded with such restraint and dignity (however odd the word seems in the circumstances) that one eruption of minor violence comes as a shocking jolt. A large dash of Alan Bennett perhaps, a soupçon of Frantic, but predominantly an individual and haunting flavour all Doust's own.

MARTIN HOYLE

## NEW RELEASES

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## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

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## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

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**6.00 BBC Breakfast News.** The overnight news from the Gulf, analysis and comment.

**9.15 Kilroy.** Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs a studio discussion on working mothers 9.55 Regional news and weather.

**10.00 War in the Gulf.** An update on the hostilities.

**12.15 Scene Today.** The daily entertainment show from Pebble Mill with Julia Spen and Ian Thompson who are joined by Simon Potter with his *Showbiz File* 12.55 Regional news and weather.

**1.00 One O'Clock News** with Philip Heywood. Weather.

**1.35 Neighbours.** (Ceefax) 2.00 News headlines followed by *Going for Gold*. Henry Kelly hosts another round of the European general knowledge quiz.

**2.25 War in the Gulf.** Analysis and comment.

**5.05 Holiday '91** presented by Anne Greig and Eamonn Holmes. There are reports from Mallorca and Hungary and the second set of clues in the *Radio Times/Holiday '91* competition to win a trip for four people to Barbados (r). (Ceefax)

**5.35 Neighbours.** (r). (Ceefax)

**6.00 Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Moina Stuart.

**6.45 Regional News and Weather.**

**7.05 Wogan.** With Carole Fisher, Ruby Wax and, with a song, Julia Lescaze.

**7.40 Brush Strokes.** Inoffensive comedy series about a cheeky painter, Jacko (Karl Lumbly). The wonderful Elmo, played by Howard Lewis, has come into money and has decided to change his pub and his image, resulting in a wine bar and manager that epitomises bad taste. Veronica gets tough with her sporty daughter Lesley, and Eric and Jacko take an interest in Italy. (Ceefax)

**8.10 Over My Dead Body.** Chits and Pieces. Conventional American thriller series starring Edward Woodward and Jessica Lundy. Nikki is angered when she discovers her husband has been murdered by a disbeliever when Chalmers is murdered immediately after they have dinner together and Nikki finds herself the prime suspect. Max steps in to help and the race is on to clear her name. (Ceefax)

**9.00 Nine O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather.



A bird in the hand: Tim Healy and Chris Hayward (10.00pm)

**10.00 The Boys from the Bush: The Stuffed Platypus.** CHOICE: It would be easier to predict in which direction a kangaroo will jump than to say with any degree of certainty whether Douglas Livingstone's new comedy series, set in Australia, will manage to pull up its socks during the next nine weeks. Episode one is short on fun and long on activity. The two need bringing into line. The main hope for future success lies in the casting of Tim Healy (Reg, from *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*) as the disgruntled exile from London's Shepherds Bush, running a matrimonial/detective agency in Melbourne with a friend (Chris Hayward) from the antipodean land of bush, romance, the shape of a Filipino-Australian, cross-creases with crime, in the shape of a duck-billed platypus stuffed with aphrodisiacs (Ceefax)

**10.50 Kane and Abel.** Episode one of a undeniably watchable three-part adaptation of Jeffrey Archer's best-selling novel, starring Sam Neil and Peter Strauss. The story, spanning 60 years, is about two men born in different countries, whose paths are destined to cross in a tale of power, bitterness, love and revenge. In the first episode, William Kane and Abel Rosenberg are born on the same day, the first the son of a Boston banker, the second the illegitimate child of a peasant (r). (Ceefax)

**1.05am News headlines**

**8.00 News 8.15 Westminster.** A round-up of business from the Lords and Commons.

**9.00 Daytime on Two.** Everyday arithmetic for adults 9.10 The teacher placement service 9.40 Health studies 10.00 Learning to read 10.20 Catechisms and Romans 10.40 Indian musical instruments 11.00 Wings and feathers 11.15 Maths 11.30 GCSE German course 11.45 Urban birds 12.00 The secret of speed 12.20 when do religious become part of their adopted country? 12.50 Christmas carols 1.20 Playdays 1.40 The pros and cons of single sex schools.

**2.00 News and weather** followed by Words and Pictures (r).

**2.15 Sport on Friday** introduced by Helen Rolston. The line-up is (subject to alteration): World Snook Championship: the women's combined downhill from Seefeld, Austria, European Figure Skating Championships: the ladies' free programme from Sofia, Bulgaria; Cricket: highlights of the first day's play in the fourth Test at Adelaide between Australia and England; Football: Trevor Brooking looks ahead to the weekend's FA Cup fourth-round ties. Includes News and weather at 3.00.

**3.50 Corners.** Inquisitive children's questions answered 4.05 Jackson's Silver Stories, *Mr Gobbler's Garden*, written and told by Giff Rhys Jones 4.20 *Fantastic Max* (r) 4.30 *Take Two* presented by Philip Schofield.

**4.55 Newsworld Extra 5.10 Grange Hill.** Episode six of the 20-part children's series set in a comprehensive school.

**5.30 Food and Drink.** Chris Barry, Jill Golden and Michael Barry start the new year with a simple-to-cook, healthy fish dish (r).

**6.00 Film: Law and Disorder (1988, b/w).** Percy Brand (Michael Redgrave) is a feeble old man who decides to give up his life of crime to avoid the embarrassing situation of awaiting trial for the murder of his wife. Ignorant of his wife's vocation, he has entered the legal profession. Bred and entertaining comedy. With Robert Morley and Elizabeth Sells. Directed by Charles Crichton.

**7.15 Cricket: Fourth Test.** Rene Benaud introduces highlights of the first day's play in the match at the Adelaide Oval between Australia and England.

**7.45 What Papers Say** with Angela Lambert of the Independent.

**8.00 Public Eye: Through the Glass Ceiling.** Nearly half of the British workforce is comprised of women, yet they earn only 75 per cent of the average male wage. *Public Eye* investigates some radical new proposals which top companies are putting forward to increase the number of senior women in the workplace.

**8.30 Gardens by Design.** Designer Jill Bellingham joins David Stevens as he continues his series on getting the most from the "outside room", and she warns against purchasing plants at random, highlighting the importance of planning. (Ceefax)

**9.00 Monty Python's Flying Circus (r).** (Ceefax)



Shocking the British film industry: Derek Jarman (8.30pm)

**9.30 Arena: Derek Jarman - A Portrait.** CHOICE: "There are no boundaries between my film and my life," says film-maker/writer/painter Jarman in Mark Kidel's deceptively anatomy of a man who has probably sent more shock waves through the British film industry (*Jubilee*, *The Last of England*, *Sebastiane*) and garnered more prizes (the latest film *The Garden*) than any British film director in the past two decades. Kidel takes his cue from what Jarman says about his life and his art, and the result is a seamless assemblage of images that are, by turn, lyrical, beautiful and horrible, angry and loving, blindingly clear and infuriatingly incomprehensible. There is no evasion of Jarman's homosexuality, although its impact on his work - dealt with visually more than verbally - could have done with closer scrutiny than it gets tonight. Northern Ireland: The Show

**10.30 Newsworld with Frances Stock**

**11.30 European Figure Skating Championships.** Barry Davies introduces action from the men's free programme from Sofia, Bulgaria.

**12.10am Behind the Headlines** with Sandi Toksvig. Ends at 12.45

**6.00 TV-am.** With reports from Geoff Meade in Doha; Adrian Brown in Amman, Louise Bevan in Jerusalem; Tony Bentley in Bahrain; and Anthony Dvorion in Washington 9.00 After Nine presented by Kathy Teyler.

**9.25 ITN Gulf News Report 9.55** Thames News and weather.

**10.00 The Time ... The Place ...** Mike Scott chairs a discussion on how much television coverage of the Gulf war parents should allow their children to see.

**10.40 This Morning.** Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley present the weekly magazine show. Today, advice on hair care from Andrew Collinge and fashion with Lesley Ebbetts. National and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather.

**12.05 News and weather.**

**1.20 Home and Away.** Australian drama about a couple and their foster children 1.50 *A Country Practice*. Soap set in a rural Australian community health centre.

**2.20 Thames Action.** Jacob King and Viv Taylor go out into the Thames area and report on the life that goes on there. In addition, London consumers get a chance to air their feelings through producing their own videos on a subject of their choice.

**2.50 Give Us a Cue.** Liza Goddard, Laurel Bate and Michael Parkinson are joined by guests Cheryl Baker, Danny Baker, Libby Morris, Roger Moore, Keith Barron and Geoffrey Durham for another game of celebrity charades. Usually, very lively entertainment.

**3.15 News headlines 3.20** Thames News headlines 3.25 The Young Doctors. Australian drama set in a large city hospital.

**4.00 Utterly Brilliant.** Timmy Mallett sets out new and old jokes while BMX ace Old Matthews demonstrates his skills 4.20 Warner Brothers Cartoon 4.40 Fun House. Slapstick game show.

**5.00 Home and Away (r).**

**5.30 News (Oracle).** Weather.

**6.00 6 O'Clock News** presented by Frank Bough and Joanna Sheldon. The guests include Phyllis Johnson of the Soldiers, Sailors and Airforce Families Association.

**7.00 The 954,000 Question.** Bob Monkhouse introduces more serious questions who are hoping to win big money in the quiz.

**7.30 Coronation Street.** More wit, wisdom and problems in the age-old northern soap (Oracle).

**8.00 ITN Gulf News Report.**

**8.10 Watching.** Understanding sitcom about an unlikely couple. Starring Emma Wiley, Paul Brown, Liza Tarbuck and Noreen Warden.

**8.40 Surgical Spirit: The Polka on the Hill.** Cutting comedy about staff in a hospital Mrs Sabatini calls a meeting to discuss fun-raising ideas for the children's ward but nobody has any good ideas. Houseman Giles Peake suggests everyone should go on a fun run, which leads to limps and excuses all round. (Oracle)

**9.10 Devotee and Desires.** CHOICE: It is just possible (given the incapacity of some people to watch hard, and listen hard), that the labyrinthine twists of the plot might have thinned down the numbers of faithful followers of Adam Dalgleish (Roy Marsden) and Terry Richards (Tony Haythorn) as they begin the fourth week of their hunt for the whistling killer - a task made even more difficult because the police now believe that there is a copycat killer at large. Sorting out the names can be a special bugbear for P.D. James. Loss this particular thread and you might as well throw in the towel. Here is an intricate solution. Have pen and paper handy and jot down who is who on the suspect list. There is a new name to add to it tonight - the power station boss's secretary, Caroline Amphlett (Helen Michell). She may be super-efficient, but her alibi is decidedly dodgy (Oracle).

**10.10 News at Ten (Oracle).** Weather 10.50 LWT News and weather.

**11.00 The London Programme.** Trevor Phipps and the team investigate the reasons behind Tottenham Hotspur FC's financial problems.

**11.30 Hoopmann.** In Search of Blouk. Frantic comedy/drama police series from the *Mid Street Blues* stable.

**12.00 ITN Gulf News Report.** Bulletins and comment throughout the night. Ends at 6.00.



Her alibi is decidedly suspect: Helena Mitchell (9.10pm)

**6.00 The Channel 4 Daily.** The latest news from the Gulf, analysis and comment.

**9.25 Schools.**

**12.00 Channel 4 News.**

**12.05 The Parliament Programme.**

**12.30 Business Daily.** Financial and business news service.

**1.00 Sesame Street.** Entertaining education series for pre-school children.

**2.00 Real World.** Final programme in the series in which Dublin vet John Wilson looks at ways of identifying animals. The showman he meets the Dux and some Finches horses (r).

**2.30 Film: Hollywood Cavalcade (1938)** starring Alice Faye, Don Ameche, Donald Meek and J. Edward Bromberg. The story of an old-time Hollywood producer that is lively enough during the first half but then slumps into a series of despairing personal dramas. Directed by Irving Cummings.

**4.20 Shepherd.** Animation.

**4.30 Countdown.** Richard Whiteley and Bill Tidy host today's words and numbers game with challenger Raine Hillson from London.

**5.00 Not on Sunday.** What part does religion play on the battlefield? Ronald Eysa investigates the work of military chaplains and how they reconcile war with a faith which tells its followers to turn the other cheek. There is also an assessment of Dr Runcie's term as Archbishop of Canterbury, with contributions from Lord Jacobowitz, Cardinal Basil Hume, Michael Ason, MP, John Weale and Canon Sam Van Culin, the secretary-general of the Anglican Consultative Council.

**5.30 American Football: Red 42** presented by Mick Luckhurst and Gary Smith who are doubtless looking forward to Sunday night's Super Bowl.

**6.00 Happy Days.** More chuckles with the Fifties high school gang from Milwaukee.

**6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross.** Tonight's guests are singer Tanita Tikaram and Elton Presley's original backing band, the Jordanaires.

**7.00 Channel 4 News.** (Teletext)

**7.10 First Reaction.** A personal view on the world of the arts and entertainment. Followed by Weather.

**8.00 Brookside.** Soap set in a Merseyside cul-de-sac. (Teletext)

**8.30 Travelog.** Robert Elms presents the travel show which aims to provide an alternative holiday guide. Items tonight include a visit to Chicago's hot spots and the pitfalls of hiring cars.

**9.00 Cheers.** Comedy and wit centring on the locals' conversation in a Boston bar. (Teletext)

**9.30 The Great Paint Collection.** Roy Lancaster visits Inverewe in Scotland - one of Britain's most mysterious and rewarding gardens (r). (Teletext)

**10.00 The Golden Girls.** Another session of fun with the four older women who share a Florida house. Stars Bea Arthur, Betty White, Rue McClanahan and Estelle Getty. (Teletext)

**10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway?** Fast-moving wit from Mike McShane, Josie Lawrence, Tolly Scatterey and Mark Cohen, who compete in the last-minute games show refereed by Clive Anderson.



Breaking all the rules: Arnold Schwarzenegger (11.00pm)

**11.00 The Word.** Revelations about those men who buy manly chests from plastic surgeons. Also, pop group Jivefish, and why Arnold Schwarzenegger broke the rules in his new film *Kidnapping Cop* by working with children and animals.

**12.00 Channel 4 News - Midnight Special.** Including the latest news from the Gulf. Ends at 2.00.

**ANGLIA**  
As London except: 1.20-1.50 Yan Can Cook 2.20-2.50 An Invitation to Remember (Phyllis, Colver) 6.57-7.00 Angles News 10.40 Cross Question 11.40 Frayce the 13th

**BORDER**  
As London except: 1.30pm A Country Practice 2.20-2.50 Gardening Time 6.30-7.00 Lookaround Frayce the 13th The Union And The League 11.10 Burns Night

**CENTRAL**  
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 With You Were Here 2.20-2.50 Gardening Time 6.10-6.40 My Secret Identity 6.00 Home And Away 6.25-7.00 Central News 10.40 Central Weather

**GRANADA**  
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 Granada Weatone 2.20-2.50 With You Were Here 7.10-7.40 Breakfast 8.00 Home And Away 8.30-9.00 Granada Tonight 10.40 Hoopmann

**HTV WEST**  
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 Yan Can Cook 3.25-3.55 3.25-3.55 Sons and Daughters 6.00 HTV News 6.30-7.00 HTV Sportsnight 10.40 Lookaround Frayce the 13th Hurry For Today USA 11.40 Hoopmann

**HTV WALES**  
As HTV West except: 8.00pm Wales at Six 8.30-9.00 Soapwatch 10.40 Enor 11.25-11.40 Better Late

**TSW**  
As London except: 1.20pm With You Were Here 2.10 The Sultans 2.20-2.50 Country News 3.55-4.00 From And Away 6.10-6.40 Who's The Boss? 6.00 TSW Today 6.30-7.00 Decoding Gardens 10.40 Presenter: Call Book 11.35 Hoopmann

**TYS**  
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 With You Were Here 7.20-7.50 Cover Story (Robert Palmer) 8.00 Coast to Coast Western Special 8.30-9.00 Wales at Six 11.10-11.30 Tonight in Comedy

**TYNE TEES**  
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 With You Were Here 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 Teletext

**ULSTER**  
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 With You Were Here 2.20-2.50 The Blue 3.25-3.55 Glenroe 6.00 Six Tonight 6.30-7.00 Sportsnight

**YORKSHIRE**  
As London except: 1.20pm-1.50 With You Were Here

**on Approval 6.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Country Challenge**

**S4C**  
Starts: 6.00am The Art of Landscape 6.30-7.00 The 100 Greatest 7.00-7.10 Picty 7.10-7.20 Newsworld 12.40 Sport 12.45-1.00 Countdown 1.30 Business Day 2.00 Masters of Time 2.30 Film: Downfall 3.00-3.15 The Three Stooges 4.30-5.15 5.15-5.30 5.30-6.00 6.00-6.15 6.15-6.30 6.30-6.45 6.45-6.50 6.50-7.00 7.00-7.10 7.10-7.20 7.20-7.30 7.30-7.40 7.40-7.50 7.50-8.00 8.00-8.15 8.15-8.30 8.30-8.45 8.45-9.00 9.00-9.15 9.15-9.30 9.30-9.45 9.45-10.00 10.00-10.15 10.15-10.30 10.30-10.45 10.45-11.00 11.00-11.15 11.15-11.30 11.30-11.45 11.45-12.00 12.00-12.15 12.15-12.30 12.30-12.45 12.45-1.00 1.00-1.15 1.15-1.30 1.30-1.45 1.45-1.60 1.60-1.75 1.75-1.90 1.90-2.05 2.05-2.20 2.20-2.35 2.35-2.50 2.50-2.65 2.65-2.80 2.80-2.95 2.95-3.10 3.10-3.25 3.25-3.40 3.40-3.55 3.55-3.70 3.70-3.85 3.85-4.00 4.00-4.15 4.15-4.30 4.30-4.45 4.45-4.60 4.60-4.75 4.75-4.90 4.90-5.05 5.05-5.20 5.20-5.35 5.35-5.50 5.50-5.65 5.65-5.80 5.80-5.95 5.95-6.10 6.10-6.25 6.25-6.40 6.40-6.55 6.55-6.70 6.70-6.85 6.85-7.00 7.00-7.15 7.15-7.30 7.30-7.45 7.45-7.60 7.60-7.75 7.75-7.90 7.90-8.05 8.05-8.20 8.20-8.35 8.35-8.50 8.50-8.65 8.65-8.80 8.80-8.95 8.95-9.10 9.10-9.25 9.25-9.40 9.40-9.55 9.55-10.00 10.00-10.15 10.15-10.30 10.30-10.45 10.45-10.60 10.60-10.75 10.75-10.90 10.90-11.05 11.05-11.20 11.20-11.35 11.35-11.50 11.50-11.65 11.65-11.80 11.80-11.95 11.95-12.10 12.10-12.25 12.25-12.40 12.40-12.55 12.55-1.00 1.00-1.15 1.15-1.30 1.30-1.45 1.45-1.60 1.60-1.75 1.75-1.90 1.90-2.05 2.05-2.20 2.20-2.35 2.35-2.50 2.50-2.65 2.65-2.80 2.80-2.95 2.95-3.10 3.10-3.25 3.25-3.40 3.40-3.55 3.55-3.70 3.70-3.85 3.85-4.00 4.00-4.15 4.15-4.30 4.30-4.45 4.45-4.60 4.60-4.75 4.75-4.90 4.90-5.05 5.05-5.20 5.20-5.35 5.35-5.50 5.50-5.65 5.65-5.80 5.80-5.95 5.95-6.10 6.10-6.25 6.25-6.40 6.40-6.55 6.55-6.70 6.70-6.85 6.85-7.00 7.00-7.15 7.15-7.30 7.30-7.45 7.45-7.60 7.60-7.75 7.75-7.90 7.90-8.05 8.05-8.20 8.20-8.35 8.35-8.50 8.50-8.65 8.65-8.80 8.80-8.95 8.95-9.10 9.10-9.25 9.25-9.40 9.40-9.55 9.55-10.00 10.00-10.15 10.15-10.30 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1.15-1.30 1.30-1.45 1.45-1.60 1.60-1.75 1.75-1.90 1.90-2.05 2.05-2.20 2.20-2.35 2.35-2.50 2.50-2.65 2.65-2.80 2.80-2.95 2.95-3.10 3.10-3.25 3.25-3.40 3.40-3.55 3.55-3.70 3.70-3.85 3.85-4.00 4.00-4.15 4.15-4.30 4.30-4.45 4.45-4.60 4.60-4.75 4.75-4.90 4.90-5.05 5.05-5.20 5.20-5.35 5.35-5.50 5.50-5.65 5.65-5.80 5.80-5.95 5.95-6.10 6.10-6.25 6.25-6.40 6.40-6.55 6.55-6.70 6.70-6.85 6.85-7.00 7.00-7.15 7.15-7.30 7.30-7.45 7.45-7.60 7.60-7.75 7.75-7.90 7.90-8.05 8.05-8.20 8.20-8.35 8.35-8.50 8.50-8.65 8.65-8.80 8.80-8.95 8.95-9.10 9.10-9.25 9.25-9.40 9.40-9.55 9.55-10.00 10.00-10.15 10.15-10.30 10.30-10.45 10.45-10.60 10.60-10.75 10.75-10.90 10.90-11.05 11.05-11.20 11.20-11.35 11.35-11.50 11.50-11.65 11.65-11.80 11.80-11.95 11.95-12.10 12.10-12.25 12.25-12.40 12.40-12.55 12.55-1.00 1.00-1.15 1.15-1.30 1.30-1.45 1.45-1.60 1.60-1.75 1.75-1.90 1.90-2.05 2.05-2.20 2.20-2.35 2.35-2.50 2.50-2.65 2.65-2.80 2.80-2.95 2.95-3.10 3.10-3.25 3.25-3.40 3.40-3.55 3.55-3.70 3.70-3.85 3.85-4.00 4.00-4.15 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7.15-7.30 7.30-7.45 7.45-7.60 7.60-7.75 7.75-7.90 7.90-8.05 8.05-8.20 8.20-8.35 8.35-8.50 8.50-8.65 8.65-8.80 8.80-8.95 8.95-9.10 9.10-9.25 9.25-9.40 9.40-9.55 9.55-10.00 10.00-10.15 10.15-10.30 10.30-10.45 10.45-10.60 10.60-10.75 10.75-10.90 10.90-11.05 11.05-11.20 11.20-11.35 11.35-11.50 11.50-11.65 11.65-11.80 11.80-11.95 11.95-12.10 12.10-12.25 12.25-12.40 12.40-12.55 12.55-1.00 1.00-1.15 1.15-1.30 1.30-1.45 1.45-1.60 1.60-1.75 1.75-1.90 1.90-2.05 2.05-2.20 2.20-2.35 2.35-2.50 2.50-2.65 2.65-2.80 2.80-2.95 2.95-3.10 3.10-3.25 3.25-3.40 3.40-3.55 3.55-3.70 3.70-3.85 3.85-4.00 4.00-4.15 4.15-4.30 4.30-4.45 4.45-4.60 4.60-4.75 4.75-4.90 4.90-5.05 5.05-5.20 5.20-5.35 5.35-5.50 5.50-5.65 5.65-5.80 5.80-5.95 5.95-6.10 6.10-6.25 6.25-6.40 6.40-6.55 6.55-6.70 6.70-6.85 6.85-7.00 7.00-7.15 7.15-7.30 7.30-7.45 7.45-7.60 7.60-7.75 7.75-7.90 7.90-8.05 8.05-8.20 8.20-8.35 8.35-8.50 8.50-8.65 8.65-8.80 8.80-8.95 8.95-9.10 9.10-9.25 9.25-9.40 9.40-9.55 9.55-10.00 10.00-10.15 10.15-10.30 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# BUSINESS

FRIDAY JANUARY 25 1991

Business Editor  
John Bell

## Banks aim to recover £600m loss on swaps

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of international banks is threatening to begin thousands of legal actions against almost a third of all local authorities in England and Wales after a House of Lords' judgment left them facing losses of up to £600 million.

The warning came after the House of Lords ruled that all interest rate swap transactions carried out between banks and local authorities were unlawful and void.

The ruling cancels thousands of agreements between 136 councils and 78 of the world's largest banks and involves more than 600 business relationships stretching back to the start of the swaps market in 1981.

Last night, the banks' steering committee said it would continue its legal battle by seeking to recover all the money it had paid to councils on swap contracts in the past ten years.

Irene Dörner, the spokeswoman for the steering committee, gave warning that the action could develop into a "litigious nightmare" unless the government took action.

She said: "This is not vindictive at all. We have a

substantial loss outstanding and a means to get it back. The councils may have paid tax on the swaps, but we have shareholders. Restitution legislation is time-consuming and successful. Banks will be competing against each other with innumerable writs. Some kind of legislation is going to be necessary to correct the mess we are now in."

Miss Dörner said the banks believed they could recover substantial sums because councils had been net beneficiaries of the swaps market. The banks estimate they have lost between £500 million and £600 million since local authority swap contracts were frozen in 1989.

The restitution cases could begin this year, as the banks plan to convert outstanding enforcement cases into restitution actions. Ogr district council in Mid Glamorgan, Wales, could become the first authority to defend an action, followed by the London boroughs of Brent and Haringey.

The Law Lords' ruling came in a test case between the district auditor and the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham. It overturned an appeal court judgment that said some local authority swaps contracts

were lawful, depending on their purpose.

A swap is a financial tool that allows companies and public bodies to speculate or hedge against interest rate movements. Councils were regular users of the swaps market until 1989, when the audit commission said such deals could be ultra vires for councils.

In his judgment, Lord Templeman condemned the use of swaps by councils. "A swap contract is more akin to gambling than insurance."

The banks view the judgment "with great disappointment and frustration". It added: "These products are undoubtedly useful tools of debt management and the judgment appears unrealistic and uncommercial in the context of today's market."

The government is taking action to prevent a storm of litigation from the banks. The environment department has held informal talks with the Treasury, banks and councils, to find a settlement.

Mike Goodman, the leader of Hammersmith council, said he would like to take part in talks with the banks on restitution now the case had ended.

City word in doubt, page 23

## Mercury calls for handicaps on BT



Strong line: Lord Young of Cable and Wireless wants more controls on BT

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY Communications, which claims the title of Europe's fastest growing major company, is calling for a series of special handicaps on its larger rival, British Telecom.

In its submission to the government's review of the duopoly between itself and BT, Mercury has argued that additional licence conditions should be imposed on BT to prevent predatory actions by its larger rival.

Mercury says lack of access to Mercury's trunk call lines from customers using BT telephones has been the major barrier to competition in Britain. It wants users of Britain's 22 million domestic exchange lines to be able to select Mercury routes by pushing a blue button when they make a long distance call.

However, Mercury is opposing government proposals to increase competition on international call routes, where it has succeeded in capturing 14 per cent of the market from BT.

Peter van Cuylenburg, Mercury's chief executive, said he expected £2 billion in annual revenues by the mid-1990s. Lord Young, chairman of Mercury's parent, Cable and Wireless, said handicapping BT would enable revenues to grow still faster.

Comment, page 23

## British Steel plans US venture

BRITISH Steel is developing plans for a joint venture to produce structural steel and railway track with America's second largest steelmaker.

The proposals would involve the loss of 2,000 jobs in the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, home of Bethlehem Steel Corporation (BSC). British Steel said viability of any joint venture would depend heavily upon the "co-operation and willingness of the workforce."

However, if workers go along with the changes, British Steel and BSC would make "substantial" investments.

British Steel aims to apply its marketing expertise in structural steel and technical lead in railway track to BSC operations. It declined to reveal how much money it might invest. The venture would comprise a profitable plant at Bethlehem rolling and fabricating structural products and a loss-making operation at Steelton, Pennsylvania.

## Macarthy falls to £4.6m

Losses of more than £5 million relating to the sale of its distribution businesses wiped out trading profits at Macarthy, the Savory & Moore chemist group, in the year ended last September.

Pre-tax profits were £4.61 million (£6.50 million) after a £435,000 exceptional charge relating to the departure of Nick Ward, former chairman and chief executive, and others. Although there was an attributable loss for the year, the final dividend is held at 7.5p, maintaining the total at 12.5p.

## Lonrho at £273m

Lonrho, the international mining and trading group, made pre-tax profits of £273 million for the year to end-September against £235 million (which excludes £38.4 million of whisky stock profits). A final dividend of 8p, making an overall 10p (14.2p as adjusted for the earlier capitalisation issue) is declared, as is a first interim dividend of 3p for 1991 (3p).

## Insurance deal

Allied Insurance Brokers, the financial services group, is paying £3.7 million for CGA Insurance Brokers, the UK's leading specialist thatched property insurance company.

Tempus, page 23

## Gulf uncertainty pushes back date of Budget

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

NORMAN Lamont is expected to deliver his first Budget on March 19, it emerged yesterday.

Ministers have decided to delay the date as close as possible to the Easter parliamentary recess because of the uncertainty in economic planning caused by the Gulf war. Government estimates

suggest that the military operation in the Middle East is costing Britain £3.6 million a day. Conservative MPs do not expect the Chancellor to reduce income tax, but they will examine his proposals carefully for any hint of an early election. The Budget date will be confirmed next week.

Markets yesterday shifted attention from Gulf developments to the impact of the war closer to home.

Gold fell sharply, oil slipped and the dollar edged lower, but share markets tended to be more resilient despite proof Iraq was still capable of hitting back after saturation bombing by American-led forces.

But two British companies, BAA and Trafalgar House, reported downturns in trading because of the Gulf.

The former British Airways Authority said that in the four days immediately following the outbreak of war, passenger traffic at its main airports fell by 20 per cent against the same period a year ago. Heathrow saw a 21 per cent fall and Gatwick 17 per cent.

Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, told the annual meeting that the Kuwait invasion and the war had hit the group's passenger shipping and hotel interests.

It was too early to quantify the effect, but trading since the August invasion had been disappointing, with cancellations at its London hotels. But Sir Nigel held out one consolation. "There'll be plenty of construction activity once it's over," he said.

The FT-SE 100 index ended 18.8 points higher at 2,099.3, close to the day's high of 2,100.9. Oil traded below \$20 a barrel in London for most of the day, reflecting positive

statements on progress made by allied forces in the Gulf. American energy futures also fell. Brent crude for March delivery fell 96 cents from \$20.56 overnight to a low of \$19.60 but recovered to \$20 in late trading.

In America, Nymex futures were down 79 cents at \$21.25 a barrel. Trading activity was modest on both sides of the Atlantic.

Petroleum products were also weaker. Bulk petrol traded at \$24.3 a tonne, down from \$25.1, while naphtha was called at \$26.2 a tonne, against \$27.5 at the close on Wednesday. Jet fuel fell from \$32.0 a tonne to \$30.9.

Saudi Arabia, the largest oil producer in Opec, is expected to take action to alleviate energy difficulties in a number of Third World nations who have been unable to send tankers to the Gulf after the outbreak of hostilities.

The Saudis may establish a shuttle service from its principal loading terminals, Ras Tanunrah and Juaymah, carrying oil beyond the Gulf for collection. Lesser developed nations have been unable to send tankers into the Gulf because of higher insurance premiums.

Fears that the Gulf war will lead to a long recession knocked silver to a 15 year low in precious metal markets. Silver dropped 16.30 cents to \$3.81 an ounce and in sterling fell for the first time since the Seventies below £2 an ounce, for a 9.75p fall on the day to 194p. Platinum closed \$10 off at \$390.50 an ounce, its lowest level since October.

London gold was \$7.25 weaker at \$372.25 an ounce.

## Shares in Bass fall on profit warning

By COLIN CAMPBELL

SHARES in Bass tumbled 69p, or 6.8 per cent, to 953p, after comments by the chairman that first quarter pre-tax profits are down an estimated 10 per cent.

Ian Prosser told shareholders at yesterday's annual meeting that trading conditions had become even worse than had been expected.

The profits warning from Bass, which had earlier said 1990 had probably marked the year of greatest change since the group was formed in 1967, follows similar statements from other leading British companies, and will inevitably lead to a profits downgrade by analysts.

Mr Prosser said Bass Breweries has seen a 1.5 per cent fall in beer volume sales in the first quarter, and total retail takings in Bass Inns & Taverns' public houses are running only slightly ahead of last year's comparable levels.

Holiday Inn is feeling the effects of the Gulf war as hotel bookings fall worldwide. Franchised hotels in America have suffered a significant fall in occupancies, while Britain "is an area of considerable weakness".

Britvic, the soft drinks business, has traded well in difficult conditions, but, with the exception of the bingo business, it has been a difficult first quarter for leisure interests.

Until the length and effect of the Gulf conflict on the recession becomes clearer, it is difficult to be optimistic about the rest of the year, Bass said.

In the year to end-September, Bass reported pre-tax profits of £535 million (£465 million).

In November, Bass announced that, in compliance with a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report, it was to dispose of 2,680 pubs. Mr Prosser said yesterday that negotiations on disposals are progressing satisfactorily.

Stock market, page 26

## Service sector now being hit hard by recession

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

UNEMPLOYMENT is expected to accelerate in the coming months as the recession bites deeper, according to a survey published yesterday, which also shows clearly for the first time that the economic downturn is now hitting the service sector harder than manufacturing industry.

The results of the survey from the British Chambers of Commerce show strongly that Britain is falling still deeper into recession. The survey's findings are likely to be confirmed next week by the Confederation of British Industry when it publishes its own quarterly Industrial Trends survey.

The BCC study, based on responses from 6,700 companies, is the UK's largest-ever business survey. Its last quarterly survey in October was among the first indications that the British economy

was in a severe recession, and the new survey, covering the final three months of last year, shows the recession is significantly worse.

Domestic orders and exports are falling more quickly than three months ago, and investment is also in decline for the first time since the BCC began its survey five years ago. Employment expectations are particularly hard hit.

Miles Middleton, the BCC president, said: "It is going to get worse before it gets better." Business prospects were very worrying, and "any thought that the recession would be short-lived is not shared by businesses". Mr Middleton saw no immediate signs of any upturn, and forecast that the next quarter's survey results would be even worse, though he thought the Gulf war would probably have an overall

beneficial effect on the economy, provided the price of oil did not soar. The earliest chance of any improvement in the business position would not come much before the end of the year.

The survey, which was conducted in the fortnight before Christmas, shows that in manufacturing, 24 per cent of companies report an increase in home orders, compared with 49 per cent reporting a decrease. This negative balance of minus 25 per cent is marking an accelerating rate. In October, the balance stood at minus 18 per cent, at minus 4 per cent in July and a positive balance of 4 per cent in April last year.

Medium-sized businesses, with between 200 and 500 employees, are being hit hardest.

Comment, page 23

## Chairmen join court at Bank

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT

PROFESSOR Roland Smith, chairman of British Aerospace, is among three industrialists appointed non-executive directors of the Bank of England to fill vacancies in the bank's court, or board.

David Lees of GKN and Colin Southgate of Thorn-EMI join for four-year terms, although both combine the jobs of chairman and chief executive of their companies, a structure of which the Bank does not wholly approve.

From March, they will replace Sir Hector Laing, who retires after nearly 18 years on the court, and Sir John Baring. Professor Smith is appointed for a year to complete the term of John Flemming, former chief economist at the Bank.

## No Sir Ralph, but shareholders grill the new boss

## Razzle-dazzle gone for a Burton

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BURTON's annual meeting has become a shadow of its former self.

Gone are the burly bodyguards and the beautiful blondes. And gone is Sir Ralph Halpern, the controversial former chairman and chief executive, who departed in November with a £2 million retirement package.

But the small shareholders remain. Many of them who put the directors through their paces at yesterday's sedate meeting, at London's Grosvenor House hotel, have held shares in the group since the takeover of Debenhams in 1985. Their memories are sharp.

One wanted to know why Burton had sold its financial services division when at the time of the Debenhams takeover shareholders had been told that Welbeck Finance was the jewel in the Debenhams crown and one of the main reasons for launching the bid.

Another, who, at a previous annual meeting, had questioned Debenhams' policy of charging £5 for deliveries, reported that the fee has risen to £6. "When the chairman said he would look into the matter I did not think he meant the fee would be raised," she said.

But there were few tears for the departure of Sir Ralph. Several shareholders questioned the role of the group's remuneration committee, which had allowed him to walk away with one of Britain's biggest golden handshakes at a time when their shareholdings had plummeted. "It gives a whole new meaning to the term 'Going for a Burton'," said one.

Another shareholder said he did not believe the remuneration committee had done its job properly and protected shareholders' interest. "Directors' remuneration has become excessive in recent years," he said to applause.

Sir John Hoskyns, the new chairman,

agreed that the old system of remuneration, where directors received deferred bonuses, had been flawed. He said the controversial executive share option scheme had been scrapped and would be replaced by a more sensible scheme.

There was an uncomfortable moment when a shareholder contrasted the remuneration of the J Sainsbury board, where the highest director received £220,000 last year, with that of the Burton board where the highest director received £817,000.

Sir John was reassuring on the financial matters although he could offer little cheer on current trading. Sales in the past five months were flat and there was a difficult trading period ahead. Debenhams had suffered less than the fashion chain stores such as Top Shop, Principles and Dorothy Perkins. "We are taking an extremely cautious view about the immediate economic outlook," he said. The party is well and truly over.

THE POUND	
US dollar	1.9595 (+0.0035)
German mark	2.9112 (+0.0010)
Exchange index	94.4 (+0.3)
STOCK MARKET	
FT 30 Share	1637.1 (+7.5)
FT-SE 100	2099.3 (+18.8)
New York Dow Jones	2648.27 (+29.21)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	23269.01 (+218.91)
Closing Prices ...	Page 25
INTEREST RATES	
London: Bank Base	14%
3-month interbank	14.25-14%
3-month eligible bills	13%-13.5%
US: Prime Rate	9.5%
Federal Funds	6.5%
3-month Treasury Bills	6.13-6.11%
30-year bonds	106.12-106.52
CURRENCIES	
London:	New York:
£: \$1 9595	£: \$1 9607
£: DM2 9112	£: DM1 4890
£: Sfr12 4647	£: Sfr11 2500
£: FF9 8009	£: FF9 0520
£: Yen132 207	£: Yen132 207
£: Yen289 10	£: Yen289 10
£: Yen34 4	£: Yen34 4
ECU 60 704580	SDR 60 734947
£: ECU1 419285	£: SDR1 360642
GOLD	
London Fixing:	
AM \$377.05 pm \$373.00	
close \$374.00-374.50 (£190.50-191.00)	
New York:	
Comex \$372.75-373.25	
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent (Mar) ...	\$20.30 oil (\$20.55)
Denotes latest trading price	
FOUR STAR RATES	
Australia \$	2.85
Austria S	2.45
Belgium Fr	62.70
Canada S	2.38
Denmark Kr	11.71
Finland Mk	7.41
France Fr	10.25
Germany DM	3.04
Greece Dr	330
Hong Kong \$	15.75
Italy Lira	2235
Japan Yen	117
Netherlands Gld	3.42
Norway Kr	228.50
Portugal Esc	200
South Africa Rd	5.50
Spain Pta	166.25
Sweden Kr	11.37
Switzerland Fr	2.65
Turkey Lira	6000
USA \$	1.05
Yugoslavia Dnr	30.00

Rates for small denomination bank only are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Retail Price Index: 129.9 (December)



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## Swatch loss for Newmark

LOUIS Newmark, the watch importer and precision engineer, is losing the exclusive British distribution rights to the successful Swatch watch brand to its Swiss owners from June 30.

Although Louis Newmark also supplies Avia and Burberry watches, Swatch accounted for the largest share of profits from watch distribution.

Louis Newmark reported interim losses before tax of £526,000 (£1.11 million) for the six months to the end of September, with a loss per share of 11.5p (27.7p).

The board gave warning that trading conditions deteriorated in the final quarter of 1990.

## MAI takeover

MAI, the international services group, strengthened its Hong Kong money-broking operations by buying the 56 per cent it does not already own of Allied-Harlow Exchange, one of the colony's oldest brokers. The company will be renamed Harlow Butler (HK) from March 1.

## Derby payout

The net asset value of capital shares in Derby Trust fell 20.7 per cent to £3.40 during the year to end-December 1990. A second interim dividend of 9.8046p on the income shares makes 17.653p for the year, 16.7 per cent up.

## Helene cuts price

Helene, the clothing manufacturer, has adjusted the terms of its acquisition of Just Jamie, a manufacturer of tailored garments to £6.45 million, not £9 million.

## H&S profits slip

Pre-tax profits at Hill and Smith, the steel products group, slipped to £5.12 million (£6.52 million) in the year to end-September, despite turnover ahead 22.8 per cent to £72.1 million. The final dividend is 3.75p (3.45p), making 5.7p (5.2p) for the year. Earnings per share slipped to 14.41p (19.29p). The shares rose 5p to 115p.

# Woolwich to offer unit trust dealings on the spot

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

UNIT trusts that can be bought and sold instantly are to be offered by the Woolwich Building Society through its 550 branches from Monday.

The Woolwich Stockmarket Fund will not issue certificates like other unit trusts. Instead, investors will be given a plastic card enabling them to buy or sell any time branches are open, including Saturdays.

Woolwich Unit Trust Managers, a wholly owned subsidiary of the third largest building society, has created the first real-time on-line unit trust dealing system and has trained staff in every branch to give investment advice.

Those wishing to sell units will be given a price and, provided the deal is for less than £15,000, will be paid immediately by cheque. Security checks will be carried out to ensure the person trying to sell units has not found or stolen the card.

John Stewart, general manager, financial services at Woolwich said: "Buying and selling a Woolwich unit trust will be as easy as making a deposit or withdrawal from a traditional building society savings account." It can take up to 21 days to buy unit trusts from other fund managers and about five days to receive payment after they are sold.

The fund, which will be managed by Mercury Asset Management, will invest in the shares of 30 to 40 blue-chip British companies. The initial portfolio is likely to include Guinness, Grand Metropolitan, Tesco, British Gas, Thames Water, Glaxo and Cable & Wireless. The trust deed will allow some overseas investment.

The unit trust will only be available through Woolwich branches and the society expects to sell £50 million to £60 million worth in the first year.

Comment, page 23



Happy lot: Steve Kendall, left, and Brian Carter, joint managing directors of Central Motor Auctions

## Central Motor ahead

CENTRAL Motor Auctions, the USM-quoted motor auctioneer, lifted pre-tax profits by 11 per cent to £1.81 million in the year to end-October despite a subdued automotive market.

Auction proceeds rose 11 per cent to £287.6 million, helped by an extension of operations. Earnings per share

climbed from 10.25p to 10.29p. The final dividend rises to 2.5p (2.25p), making 3.5p (3.25p) for the year.

The company said profits for the year were very satisfactory but added that results for this year will be affected by the cost of a development programme, which will be about £10 million over two years.

## Fax paper dumping charges

By ROSS TIEMAN  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission is to investigate allegations by Wiggins Teape Appleton that Japanese manufacturers have been dumping thermal paper on European markets.

The commission said WTA had provided adequate evidence that the papermakers charged less in Europe for the paper, used in facsimile machines, than they did in Japan.

WTA, which accounts for 90 per cent of European Community thermal paper production, said Japanese suppliers cut their prices in Europe in the autumn of 1989. Their share of the £175 million a year market subsequently rose from 61.5 per cent to 79.2 per cent.

The Commission is expected to visit Japan and America during its inquiry. If it concludes that dumping occurs, it has power to impose an anti-dumping levy.

The market for thermal paper has been one of the fastest growing in the paper industry. WTA, one of the world's largest paper groups, regards it as a major area of opportunity.

WTA was demerged from BAT Industries, the tobacco-based conglomerate, last May. It has agreed to merge with Ajinomoto, the French paper group.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Mattessons to cut 450 jobs in restructuring

MATTESSONS Wall's, the pie and pastry business owned by Unilever, said 450 jobs will be lost as part of a restructuring in which its distribution business will be channelled through a single centre in Manchester operated by an outside contractor, Wincanton Distribution Services.

Northern Foods, the Hull food manufacturer, is paying Mattessons £14 million for the Trafford Park Bakery, also in Manchester, a supplier of pies and pastries under the Wall's, Richmond and Lawson brands and Tesco's own label.

### Samuel Heath declines 36%

PRE-TAX profits at Samuel Heath & Sons, the giftware and hardware manufacturer, declined 36 per cent to £210,000 for the six months to end-September. The company said its home markets were hurt by reduced margins and its export markets were affected by the strength of the pound. The interim dividend has again been set at 1.5p.

### Dale Electric incurs loss

DALE Electric International, manufacturer of generators and aerospace ground power units, lost £146,000 before tax in the six months to end-October (£710,000 profit). Loss per share was 1.76p against earnings of 3.66p previously. Turnover fell from £29.9 million to £24.04 million. The interim dividend is maintained at 2p.

### Prior passes payout

PRIOR, the property group that reversed into Knobs & Knockers in 1989, has passed its interim dividend, 2.5p last time, after suffering a pre-tax loss of £682,000 in the six months to end-September (£2.17 million profit).

Turnover fell to £4.43 million (£12.1 million), largely due to disposals. Prior concentrates on industrial properties, offices and shops. There is a 2.09p loss per share (5.17p earnings). There was an extraordinary profit of £2.25 million, mainly relating to the disposal of the Beaver Architectural Ironmongery business. James Prior, the chairman, said Prior should "get through the present difficult period".

### Loss trimmed at Farepak

FAREPAK, the USM mail order and food processing group that supplies Christmas hampers, trimmed its pre-tax loss from £805,000 to £599,000 in the six months to end-October. The company benefited from travel businesses acquired last year. Turnover rose to £3.99 million from £67,000. The interim dividend is improved from 1.9p to 2.3p.

### Proteus sinks deeper in red

PROTEUS International, the USM-quoted maker of software for drug design, saw losses deepen from £226,000 to £520,000 in the five months to end-September. The operating loss increased from £179,000 to £627,000. The loss per share is 2.44p (1.40p), with the fully diluted loss at 2.25p (1.40p). There is no interim dividend.

## RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES	Value	Change	Value	Change	Value	Change
Adams Resources	37	+	St James Place	145	+	
Aberdeen Ship Cos	65	+	Smaller Ltd	61	+	
Braziers Res	145	+	Stand Platform	150	+	
C&W Group	28	+	Ti Euro Gen	79.4	+	
Castle Carm (50p)	30	+	Trio Inv Test	43	+	
ECU Test	38	+	Und Energy	1.4	+	
EPN Java Test	35	+	Und Unimov	32	+	
Edos	81	+	Unichem	115	+	
Excelsior Corp	44	+	Wig Tpe App	178	+	
Faber Plast	145	+				
Golden Vale	138	+				
Invergordon	92	+				
Liverpool	19	+				
MIMI	26	+				
Malaysia Capital	56	+				
Midland Radio	9	+				
Paragon	16	+				
Pelican Int	82	+				
Proteus Int						

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Value	Change	Value	Change	Value	Change
Lon Int N/P	3	+	For & Col N/P	1	+
For & Col N/P	1	+			

## WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily Change	Yearly Change	Daily Change	Yearly Change	Daily Change	Yearly Change
The World (free)	598.0	0.4	-32.5	1.1	-23.1	1.1	-17.9
EAFF	108.8	0.4	-32.8	1.0	-23.1	1.0	-17.9
(free)	974.7	0.7	-37.4	1.0	-31.7	1.0	-23.8
Europe (free)	100.2	0.7	-37.8	0.9	-31.8	0.9	-24.0
Asia (free)	583.4	0.7	-23.3	0.7	-20.5	1.4	-6.7
Nth America (free)	128.1	0.6	-22.9	0.4	-20.3	1.3	-6.1
Nth America (free)	418.8	0.0	-22.5	0.7	-5.7	0.7	-5.7
Nordic (free)	1086.0	1.1	-30.2	1.1	-24.7	1.8	-15.1
Pacific (free)	178.8	1.0	-24.0	1.0	-18.4	1.7	-7.5
Pacific (free)	2167.1	0.7	-45.4	1.2	-38.4	1.4	-33.5
Far East	3142.9	0.8	-45.7	1.3	-39.1	1.5	-33.9
Australia	226.5	-1.0	-34.8	0.3	-19.5	-0.4	-20.6
Austria	1207.0	1.1	-18.8	0.9	-13.3	1.8	-1.1
Belgium	675.9	0.3	-31.3	0.3	-28.2	1.0	-16.4
Canada	410.0	-0.3	-31.7	0.3	-16.9	0.4	-16.9
Denmark	1072.7	0.7	-18.5	0.5	-13.9	1.4	-0.8
Finland	60.1	-0.4	-47.9	-0.2	-43.8	0.3	-38.5
(free)	83.4	0.2	-44.1	0.4	-39.5	0.9	-31.9
France	571.9	1.4	-29.3	1.2	-24.9	2.1	-13.9
Germany	567.5	0.7	-27.3	0.6	-22.4	1.4	-11.4
Hong Kong	1968.7	0.9	-11.2	1.6	7.9	1.6	8.1
Italy	241.1	-0.7	-37.5	-0.6	-33.0	0.0	-23.9
Japan	3298.8	0.8	-46.6	1.3	-40.3	1.5	-34.9
Netherlands	713.5	0.6	-24.5	0.5	-19.6	1.3	-8.1
New Zealand	50.0	-1.1	-61.5	-0.4	-41.1	-0.4	-40.9
Norway	1013.1	1.2	-24.5	1.1	-19.1	1.9	-8.1
(free)	177.9	1.1	-23.9	1.0	-18.4	1.8	-7.3
Sing/Malaysia	1426.8	0.6	-28.5	0.7	-20.9	1.3	-12.9
Spain	164.5	1.0	-30.5	0.9	-27.9	1.7	-15.4
Sweden	1188.0	1.6	-32.3	1.5	-26.1	2.3	-17.5
(free)	174.6	1.5	-27.9	1.6	-21.9	2.2	-12.2
Switzerland	713.0	2.5	-22.0	2.7	-22.9	3.2	-5.7
(free)	108.1	2.4	-22.6	2.6	-23.5	3.1	-5.7
UK	623.8	0.3	-13.5	0.3	-13.5	1.0	-5.3
USA	378.3	0.0	-21.7	0.7	-4.7	0.7	-4.7

Def: Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

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## Next discusses Grattan sale with Otto Versand

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

OTTO Versand, the world's biggest international mail order company, has confirmed talks with Next about a takeover of its Grattan business, the fourth largest mail-order firm in Britain.

Next, which as late as yesterday morning was still denying the talks, did an abrupt U-turn in the afternoon after the news leaked out

from Hamburg. A spokesman for Otto dismissed as "pure speculation" reports that the German firm would pay about £140 million for Grattan. The negotiations are still at an early stage and no agreements have yet been signed. Despite the confusion within Next, the share rose 3p to 19p. There is speculation that David Jones, Next's chief executive, is trying to put together a management buyout of the retail chain and Next Directory, with a possible equity injection from a Japanese group.

Otto's arrival on the British mail order scene could have serious implications for what has been a cosy, sleepy industry dominated by four big groups - GUS, Littlewoods, Freemans and Grattan. Otto, which holds 60 per cent in Rainbow Home Shopping, a joint venture with Fine Art Development, has an annual

turnover of 15 billion marks. The mail order industry is likely to be further disrupted by the sale of Littlewoods' mail order business, confirmed earlier this week.

Next evolved from Hepworth, an ailing suit-making business, and was transformed by George Davies in 1981 into a retailer of exclusive-looking women's wear at affordable prices. The concept was applied to menswear, interior design, children's clothes, jewellery, restaurants and mail order. But over-expansion at too high prices cost Mr Davies his job in December, 1988. Mr Jones stepped into Mr Davies's shoes but profits continued to fall, and disposals were made. Next must pay off a £150 million convertible Eurobond in October, 1992 but analysts say the group does not have the money.

## Property swap

SCOTTISH Metropolitan and Dundee Property Group have swapped portfolios of retail and office properties worth £17 million at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Falkirk and Stirling. Scottish Metropolitan said: "This transaction underlines the continued confidence of both our companies in the Scottish property market."

## Siemens result rises

SIEMENS, the German electronics company, has increased net profits from DM1.58 billion to DM1.67 billion for the year to end-September.

A bullish forecast by the company, which predicts sales will rise by another DM9 billion in the current year, from DM63.2 billion, sent the

## THF sells cafes

TRUSTHOUSE Forte is selling the 14-strong chain of French-style Dome cafes at a price thought to be about £12 million.

It is understood that THF has received an offer, and approaches from two or three other potential buyers. The chain came to the company in 1986 as part of the Imperial purchase from Hanson.

## BUSINESS LETTERS

### After the farce with Frank, windy climate

From Mr Henry Bear

Sir, Martin Waller (articles January 2/10 on the power generators sale), in assessing the climate for these offers, is perhaps a little unfair to the Government and the City over certain aspects of the inequitable farce of the sale of the distributors.

It is possibly true that the offers were underpriced and much of the advertising aimed in the wrong direction, but the task of the promoters was to sound out all markets and bring in the applications; this they certainly did, and it is very difficult, after the fact, to question their approach.

It was then up to the allotment committee, in the light of Government policy and promises made to customers and others, to arrive at

a sensible and equitable allocation; unfortunately, that is where equity and logic seemed to have moved out. As your columns report, the distributors are far from happy, the regulators are overburdened and millions of investors left with either nothing or a shareholding which has little but nuisance value.

Apart from the Government's sale in "perks" from early selling, only the stockbrokers seem set to win. To dispose of my 100 shares in each of seven undertakings - all from "one application form, one cheque" - would cost me seven minimum commissions, approximately £105/175 out of a notional profit of £270/300.

This could perhaps explain the apparent underpricing -

20p for Frank and 20p for the

brokers? Is that what was planned? Cynicism in old age suggests that perhaps it was, my better nature calls it just incompetence.

Some important questions must live on. If the cost of selling 100-share interim certificates is fair, how much did it cost to issue them? How much of each £100 did the Government receive, before paying for the promotion? Is this the most efficient and cost-effective way of privatisation? The climate for the power generators offers is, I suggest, wet and windy, with Frank-in-sense.

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY BEAR,  
Clare Cottage,  
East Sussex.

### Squeezing out the late payers

From Mr K.L. Fickling

Sir, Of course the CBI opposes legislation but the fact is that late bill payment is the hobgoblin of modern trading, being both dishonest and self-defeating.

In general, it turns the old adage upside down in that "little fleas have bigger fleas upon their backs to bite them" - sometimes fatally. Suppliers who survive put up the prices to cover themselves and the final consumer sees inflation going on and on and on until he no longer buys.

Honest traders should create a "14 day" list of companies who commit themselves to payment of bills within 14 days. Such companies could offer one another substantial discounts and might ultimately freeze those who batten on their creditors.

Another point that may help to reduce inflation would be if the public were encouraged to boycott the products of companies who give extra remuneration (sometimes massive) for no extra work. Such increases merely lay the foundation for next year's inflationary settlements.

May I say that I have no axe to grind? I am retired and was no more than a humble scribe, never in business on my own account.

Yours faithfully,  
K.L. FICKLING,  
Hill View,  
The Ridges,  
Guildford,  
Surrey.

All this is desensitising the English language.

Yours sincerely,  
(Dr) M.J. RUSSELL,  
5 Fiona Close,  
Great Bookham,  
Surrey.  
January 15.

## CBI not to blame

From Mr D. McWilliams,  
Chief Economic Adviser, CBI

Sir, Your commentator ("Time to move on interest rates", January 22) should not be allowed to get away with rewriting history to try to make it fit with his views.

He alleges that the fall in manufacturing output in November 1990 was caused by the UK's membership of the Exchange Rate Mechanism and that this was "not apparently foreseen by the CBI, the Treasury and the other Euro boosters." To apply this allegation to the CBI is absurd. The CBI's September Monthly Trends Enquiry, carried out and published before entry into the Exchange Rate Mechanism, showed firms intending to reduce their output significantly over the next four months. This was because of a

sharp drop in order books over the previous three months. My own article in *The Times* ("Tighten the reins but loosen the grip", September 24) also predicted a fall in GDP in the coming months.

No one who had a feel for the timetables of production scheduling and for the relationship between production and demand could seriously believe that an economic policy decision such as joining the Exchange Rate Mechanism in October could possibly be the cause of a 1.2 per cent fall in manufacturing production in November. Indeed, the evidence of CBI surveys shows that falling production was already planned weeks before the decision to join. Yours faithfully,  
DOUGLAS MCWILLIAMS,  
CBI, Centre Point,  
103 New Oxford Street, WC1

## TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealings	For Settlement
January 21	January 21	January 21	January 21
Call options were taken out on 24/1/91 at 100p. BTR Wb, Borsford, Burton, Davy Corp, OGC, Next, Richmond Ch & Co, Sella, Total, Puma, Conna & Wessels, Razzani.			



## Mercury wants curbs on BT

British Telecom may kick and scream, but the Government is determined to break the dominance of our largest telephone company. For investors and customers alike what counts most is the way the task is tackled. The most obvious pitfall would be to promote the semblance of competition with Mercury, the Cable and Wireless offshoot, plus three or four others weakly snapping at a BT still able to make use of structural and financial barriers to keep its leading position.

In its response to the white paper on freeing up the telecoms market, Mercury makes clear it wants none of that, but spoils its free trade credentials with a series of self-serving special pleas.

Yes, Mercury is piously in favour of the main thrust of the government thinking on deregulation. But its call for even tougher regulation for what it quaintly refers to as dominant operators appears aimed at tying at least one of BT's arms behind its back.

Even more cheekily, Mercury wants BT's rivals including itself to be treated as equals in pursuit

of breaking down the BT monolith and regulation for this second force in the industry to be pared to a minimum. That would, indeed, suit Mercury but not necessarily the public. For Mercury has made excellent use of the regime which exists now to become a forceful rival to BT in specialised areas such as business users. Mercury has a long lead on any third or fourth serious contenders in terms of sunk costs and market penetration.

For some time to come, newcomers might need special treatment over Mercury to allow them to become established and compete effectively. Otherwise the original BT monopoly might merely be replaced by an entrenched duopoly. That would be a disaster in an industry with worldwide market opportunities for British industry.

But where Mercury's protection mask ships completely in its reference to new foreign entrants to the home

market. It warns of foreign carriers exploiting favoured positions in their home markets and says that no new international operators should be licensed in Britain for the time being. Such protectionism should be considered only as a means of gaining access to other protected markets round the world.

### Small mercy

Yesterday's gloomy survey from the British Chambers of Commerce shows starkly that the recession is bad, getting worse, and will in all probability go on getting worse for the rest of this year. British industry needs to nail another batten on its hatchets.

Though the comparable survey from the Confederation of British

Industry, which will describe the recession in similar terms when it is published next week, is of longer standing, one of the strengths of the chambers' survey is that it fills in the gaps round the CBI's work. Because the number of companies it covers is much larger, and because its sample is skewed towards smaller firms, it can give a picture of how the majority of British business, in both manufacturing and services, is doing away from the large companies which the CBI's survey charts so well.

The overall trend is that the bigger a company is, the worse the recession is hitting it. Small companies, at least, those which are still in business, are weathering things rather better than larger firms. This is clearly important. Small companies were the principal engine of

growth in the Eighties. When overall employment started to rise in the mid-Eighties, small businesses created 200,000 jobs in two years, while large companies mustered only 20,000.

But though smaller companies may be doing better than larger firms, they are still doing badly. That, coupled with the indicated cutbacks in physical investment and the reduction in training which the CBI's *Industrial Trends* survey is expected to show next week, bodes ill for when the fever of the recession has ebbed. Standard economic theory has it that the best time to invest is in a recession, when good deals can be done on new equipment and labour is in plentiful supply.

Brutal economic practice means that is a theory more honoured in the breach than the observance. If the growth engine of investment and small companies is being idled, or turned off

completely, then the impact of this recession is likely to be felt long after it is over.

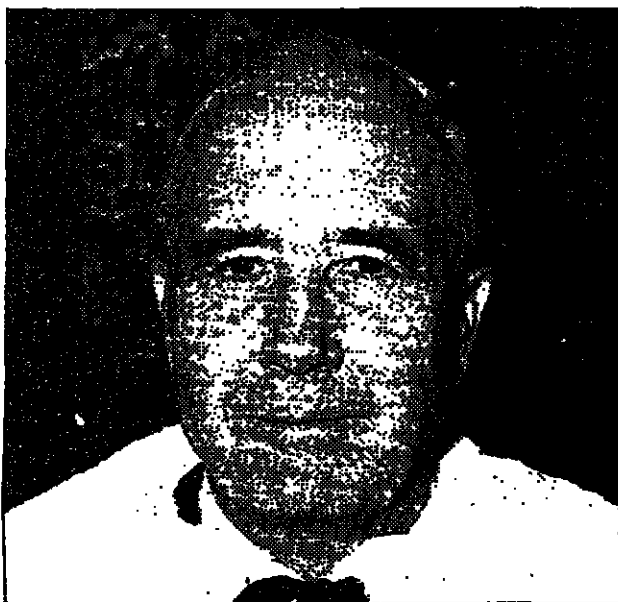
### Counter move

Brave investors buy against the market and they now have a champion in the form of the Woolwich. The third largest building society is to launch a unit trust company on Monday when the rest of the unit trust industry is still recovering from the worst sales statistics for a decade.

The Woolwich is confident that it will be offering something that investors want: simplicity. Instant buying and selling will also give investors confidence. The society this week also pulled off a coup in buying 191 of the better Prudential estate agency shops for a giveaway £21.75 million — about a fifth of the price that the Pru paid for them at the top of the market.

But then, sensible investors know that the best time to buy is when there is uncertainty rather than when everyone else is piling in confidently.

## City's word called into question by swaps ruling



Lord Templeman: advising redress to parliament

THE banking world had expected bad news from the House of Lords' long-awaited judgment in the local authority swaps case. It was not disappointed.

The law lords' decision in the case between the district auditor and the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham has overturned the judgment in the court of appeal last year that some local authority swaps were lawful.

As foreboded in their provisional ruling last November, the Lords has instead effectively outlawed 592 swap contracts that the council agreed with various banks over seven years, declaring them *ultra vires*, or beyond the council's powers.

The judgment also wipes out swap contracts between dozens of 76 of the world's largest banks and 130 other local authorities. The judgment has destroyed an important section of one of the City's fastest-growing markets, and leaves the banks facing a loss of up to £600 million.

For the banks, however, the issues in the case run far deeper than the ability of one suburban council to escape its debts through a legal loophole.

Many fear the basis of the law of contract is at stake, and that the City of London's international reputation as a safe centre for business has been severely damaged.

The law lords' judgment is unusually vitriolic about the use of swaps by local authorities. In his speech, Lord Templeman brushed aside claims by the banks that swaps were a legitimate tool of debt management for the council, a form of insurance against adverse movement in interest rates. He said: "A swap contract... is more akin to gambling than insurance. Despite the urgings of the banks to the contrary, it seems to me there are substantial risks. There is no evidence that local authorities which have abstained from the swap market have forfeited substantial profits."

Swaps are a complex financial

tool that has developed since the late Seventies. At their simplest, they allow a company that has borrowed at a fixed interest rate to swap its debt with another company that had borrowed at a floating rate. In more complex transactions, groups of borrowers and banks swap currencies and debt in the hope of reducing their interest burden and foreign exchange exposure. The market has also given birth to a range of derivative products, including swap options, caps and floors. In the last decade, the swaps market has become worth

about \$3,000 billion a year, almost a third the size of the world's equity and bond markets. It is the type of market that has traditionally flourished in the City. London's flexible regulatory framework has always adapted better to new markets than more rigid systems on the Continent. That position is in jeopardy. Foreign institutions are doing business elsewhere in Europe. American International Group, the insurer, has established a subsidiary in Paris. Previously, it ran all its business through the City. Mark Brickell, the chairman

of the International Swap Dealers Association, said the ruling was a poor example to set when countries were desperate to reduce their debt burden. He said: "This sort of event tugs at the fabric of financial markets and starts to unravel them."

One leading French banker has called the affair a scandal, and criticises the government for its failure to act to clarify the situation before Hamersmith council was taken to court by the district auditor. He said: "The London model of financial markets is being challenged in the courts and destroyed in the House of Lords. This means we can no longer deal with a non-financial institution without the gravest financial risk."

Government sources have accused the banks of huffing and puffing in the hope that they may recover some of the lost funds. But the losses, although painful, are small compared with the massive bad debt provisions the banks have been forced to shoulder in the past two years.

TSB Group is one of the worst affected among the British banks. Last year, it wrote off £76 million against its swaps book, and Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, is critical of the government in its handling of the affair. "I was always taught that a contract was a contract."

The banks are not going to take the ruling lying down. Some are planning to appeal to the European Court of Justice. Others may take Hamersmith and other councils to court to call for restitution on a contract by contract basis. At its worst, this would mean unwinding thousands of contracts, creating a legal and administrative horror.

In his judgment, Lord Templeman advises banks to take the subject of swaps before parliament. Calls from all sides for the government to intervene are rising to shouting pitch.

NEIL BENNETT  
Banking Correspondent

## Lonrho's platinum surprise

YES, Lonrho does it again and — against all odds — has turned out higher pre-tax profits for the year ended September 30.

But then the real surprise from Lonrho, which always has one surprise for followers, was the strength of that very precious metal, rhodium.

Rhodium, a co-product of platinum, has risen from \$1,500 to \$5,500 an ounce, and a first interim of 3p — both payable on April 8 — to those on register at February 8 — and the overall yield of 10.4 per cent will ensure the shares enjoy a short-term following.

Traditional ex-dividend weakness should not, however, be forgotten.

### Macarthy

IT MAY be some while before Macarthy's sale of its drug wholesaling business impacts on the group's trading performance, but shareholders are seeing the benefit already. The £19 million cash injection has strengthened the balance sheet sufficiently to encourage the board to hold the dividend in the face of an attributable loss.

For all the progress that the new management team appears to have made in restructuring and revitalising the group, it is just possible that another dip into the reserves will be needed again this year if the payout is to £273 million?

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companies. None is more specialist than the latest £3.7 million add-on, CGA Insurance Brokers.

CGA is the UK's leading broker of insurance cover for theatrical properties, with about a 20 per cent market share. Issues of paper will finance the deal, increasing the capital base of Allied by about 25 per cent. However, Mr Cayzer and his board believe the deal will enhance earnings in the current year. Dividends for the year to end-December 1990 are forecast by Allied to increase to 4.5p (3p).

With the pace of deals accelerating, (the acquisition of a Lloyd's broker is expected shortly), Allied's strategy is becoming clearer. The holding company, to be renamed Oriel Insurance Group, will provide the financial controls and resources for a family of small, cash-generative companies operating under their own well-known trading names.

Pre-tax profits of £3.15 million are forecast for the year to December 31, 1991, by Panmure Gordon, the house broker. That puts the shares on a forward multiple of a touch over 7, compared with a sector average in the mid-teens. The stock is tightly held but looks interesting.

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## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Status symbol

REFLECTING the downbeat mood of the City at present, and especially the dejected atmosphere of the United Securities Market, appeals for a car to be donated for the annual USM Dinner — now renamed the PLC Dinner — to raise funds for the NSPCC, have been met, thus far, with the lone offer of a Trabant from the former East Germany. "Given the status of the USM now, it might be quite appropriate," says Alan Moss, aged 39, chairman of Alan Paul, the hairdressing group based in Liverpool, and the man making the generous offer. He was given the car by a local mayor when he opened Alan Paul's first East German salon four weeks ago. But, clearly anxious to have it removed from his own garage, image-conscious Moss, displaying typical Scouse humour, says: "It is the most disgusting car in the world. It looks like a skip on wheels and that's paying it a compliment." The car is needed to go with a personalised number plate, USM 1, donated by Moss last year, and returned by the man — Richard Murphy, founder of Irish video tape rental company Xtra-vision — who bought both it and a flashy Reliant SSI sports car at an auction at last year's dinner, paying a total of £77,000, only to discover that he could not use the plate in the republic. But, similarly charting the fate of the USM,

the plate has also decreased in value. Once worth in excess of £40,000, Moss thinks it is now worth, at most, £15,000.

### Mencap's line

IT IS not just retailers and industrialists who are feeling the relentless squeeze of recession. So too, it seems, are charities. Mencap, the charity for the mentally handicapped, is now so desperate to rally support that it has taken to the hard sell, calling regular supporters at home and asking for money to be pledged over the telephone. This move was prompted by a stingy response to its recent mailings — the response to the Christmas mailshot was down from 15 to 12 per cent — which coincided with an approach from Factor Fox, an American agency specialising in telly-marketing for charities. So far, results from Mencap's first trial with 1,000 people have been excellent, with more than 60 per cent

pledging a small donation. But Mencap says it is well aware this new practice might cause offence and is monitoring the experiment carefully. "In the short term, it seems a very cost-effective way of raising money," says Simon Stanley, Mencap director. "But we are aware it could reach saturation point very quickly."

### Last gazzp

THERE is little enough for Spurs shareholders/supporters to laugh at just now, but they are chuckling over the tale of Saddam Hussein receiving a parcel containing a full Spurs first-team kit, including the number 8 shirt. The Iraqi leader's reaction turned from perplexity to fury as the realisation dawned. "I wanted the Gaza Strip, not the Gaza strip," he fumed.

### Evil under the lift

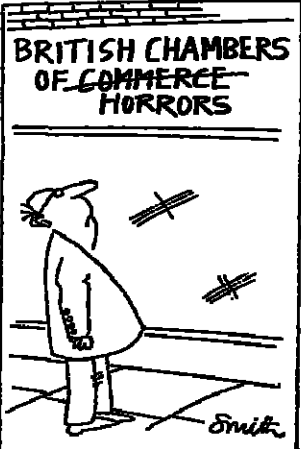
HOARE Govett director Robert Whitaker could soon be sprouting a moustache and cultivating a Belgian accent. For Whitaker resides mid-week at Florin Court, a classic Thirties block of apartments in Charterhouse Square, and the background for Agatha Christie's *Hercule Poirot* television series. "We all got paid £100 when they filmed it two years ago," he says. But now Regalian, which manages the block, has written to the residents informing them that two art deco chairs and several vases were stolen from the reception area at the weekend. The matter had, they added, been reported to Kings Cross

police station, but residents should, they warned, take extra security precautions. "Sounds like a perfect case for Poirot," quipped Whitaker.

### Breadhead

AS WITH most companies, Ranks Hovis McDougall has been cutting costs and at its annual meeting yesterday at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, chairman Stanley Metcalfe told the 1,500 shareholders in attendance that its corporate video, traditionally shown on such occasions, had been scrapped. "It costs us £30,000 for an eight-minute film — so we decided not to have one," he said. To the horror of most corporate video companies his announcement was greeted with a round of applause. Instead, he found a cheaper way to please his investors — a box of company products ranging from loaves of bread and tins of Bisto to cake mixes, mango chutney and pasta shells. But some, it seems, grated more than their share. One woman was later spotted on a Central Line tube train, struggling to keep hold of six RHM carrier bags and two cardboard boxes, all stuffed with RHM goodies. Unable to manage her load she eventually offered a loaf of bread to other passengers in the carriage. Her offer was politely declined. "People are so rich, you can't even give it away these days," she complained, without seeing the irony of her own situation.

CAROL LEONARD





## Dear Shareholder,

Your company is in good financial health, and past investment in the many, many businesses that make up the Lonrho Group has provided a base for sustained growth worldwide. Some economies are in recession, but change always means opportunity and Lonrho welcomes it with sharpened teeth.

Turnover for the financial year rose to £5.5 billion and profits to £273 million. In 1989 — the previous year — the accounts included a £38 million one-off contribution to profits from the sale of Scottish whisky stocks. Nevertheless, this year, 1990, Lonrho improved profits above the 1989 level, unaided by windfall content, which I think shows the integral strength of your company. Lonrho has continued to invest in improvements and asset growth.

Cash reserves are at £355 million of which ninety per cent. is banked in



Load haul dumper — Redding gold mine, Zimbabwe.

Europe or the United States. In addition, your company continues to have excellent bank facilities.

Georing is at a reasonable fifty-eight per cent. Investment in the future in the form of capital expenditure has been £1.4 billion over the past five years.

Maturing projects have made Lonrho the largest agricultural producer in Africa. Lonrho has several wildlife reserves run in conjunction with commercial farming or ranching. Land in Kenya and Zimbabwe alone covers several hundred thousand acres, and there are resident specialists for flora and fauna. Elephant, rhino, giraffe, zebra, gazelle, cheetah and leopard, many different colonies of rare monkeys and hundreds of species of birds are all protected and co-exist successfully with agricultural projects and beef cattle. The total cattle herd is one hundred and twenty thousand head.

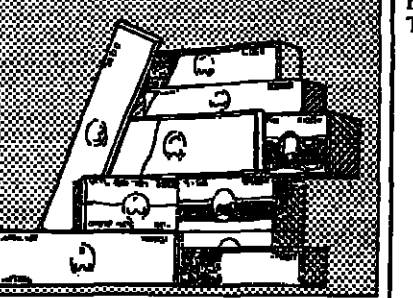
Across Africa, it has been the company's pattern to enter into joint ventures with national Governments. I should like to single out this year the historic Ashanti gold mine in Ghana, operated in partnership with the Ghana Government and managed by Lonrho for twenty-three years. It is a successful and happy relationship. Annual production at Ashanti will soon exceed six hundred thousand ounces of gold and the board welcomes Mr. Sam Jonah, the Managing Director of Ashanti Goldfields, as a new associate director of your company.

Among many other long-term developments, a significant asset of the Group today is the Western Platinum mine which was discovered, surveyed, started, developed and brought to fruition by Lonrho. The mine is the world's lowest cost and most modern producer of platinum and associated rare minerals. It's a heavy contributor to your company's profits. Western Platinum is a young mine with decades of ore reserves, and the capital value of our platinum mines today must be of the order of one billion pounds.

In Britain, recent investment has been concentrated on the expansion of the Metropole Hotel chain, which is one hundred per cent. owned and, with one exception, one hundred per cent. freehold. Enlargement of the London Metropole will make it the capital's biggest modern hotel. The Lonrho Group, through subsidiary companies, is also a large importer and distributor of vehicles and, during the year under review, one hundred and eighty thousand were sold. Engineering is in the doldrums, of course, and while textiles are doing brilliantly overseas the company's mills and three hundred outlets in the United Kingdom have not been able to make more than a small contribution this year. The twenty-seven provincial papers are profitable, and the Observer celebrates an astonishing two hundred years of continuous publication in 1991.

In Europe, the Lonrho Group is actively seeking ways of expanding our existing investments. I put a value in excess of a thousand million Deutschmarks on the partnerships and shareholdings Lonrho has, a list headed by fifty/fifty Krupp Lonrho with its fleet of four million DW tonnes of specialised cargo ships and tankers and fifty/fifty Kühne & Nagel with ten thousand people working in shipping and transporting goods. Lonrho has also acquired a significant holding worth about one hundred million pounds in ASMO, which has one thousand four hundred supermarkets and stores throughout Germany. Germany offers us a springboard into underdeveloped Eastern Europe. Dr. Helmut Wagner, Chairman of ASMO, has kindly agreed to join the Lonrho board as an associate director, and I have joined the ASMO board. Shareholders will recognise that the talent and new outlook of associate directors are very necessary to the future of the Group.

This year Mr Nick Kruger has decided to step down from the main board of Lonrho. Since 1962 the company has enjoyed the benefit of his unfailing kindness and good judgment, and he has agreed to continue to help us in a less strenuous way.



Platinum bars — Western Platinum.

# Lonrho achieves strong performance

## European cash exceeds £300 million

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

The final dividend is 8 pence on an increased share capital, as there was a one for ten bonus issue in April 1990. That makes a total return for the year of 16 pence per share net.

Now for the bad news. The board has decided to move the Annual General Meeting to the Barbican Centre, as Grosvenor House was overflowing each year and many shareholders were unable to find a seat. I hope it won't deter you from coming along on 21 March.

Yours sincerely,  
R W Rowland

The following text is taken from the Review of Operations for the year ended 30 September 1990.

### MINING & REFINING

At Ashanti, gold production has increased by 18 per cent. to 400,757 ounces. In March 1990, a loan of US\$60 million was granted by the International Finance Corporation for the Sanku development programme which is expected to increase gold production to over 600,000 ounces soon.

The platinum expansion programme gathered momentum with a further 40 per cent. increase in platinum group metal output to 486,000 ounces. The decline in the platinum price has been offset by the spectacular short-term increase in the price of rhodium to over US\$5,000 per ounce. The Group's mines produce proportionally more rhodium than other platinum producers because of the mix of ores being mined.

In addition to the expansion at Western Platinum, Eastern Platinum production increased significantly, following the commissioning of its new one million tonnes per annum concentrator. The plant is now being expanded to double capacity.

Group platinum output was further boosted by the acquisition of the Karoo mine adjoining Western Platinum shortly after Karoo began production. Sinking of the Western Platinum No 4 shaft was completed



Princess Tower — Bahamas.

recently and production will start in the second half of 1991. The Group's platinum ore reserves now amount to a billion tonnes. Karoo ore is higher grade and largely shallow and therefore lower cost.

In Zimbabwe gold production amounted to 161,000 ounces in 1990, and overall profitability increased.

The Group's collieries maintained their production at 5 million tonnes and we continue to hold our 36 per cent. interest in Erfel and our holding in Leeuwbosch gold mines.

### AGRICULTURE

Lonrho has enhanced its position as the largest commercial food producer in Africa through new projects in Mozambique and Kenya.

Sugar has again dominated this sector and made a valuable contribution to the Group's profit.

Tea production in Malawi increased by 12.5 per cent. to 5.6 million kilograms, although a drop in tea prices depressed profitability.

In Zimbabwe the agricultural operations benefited from good sales of wattle extract, which offset the poor prices received for coffee.

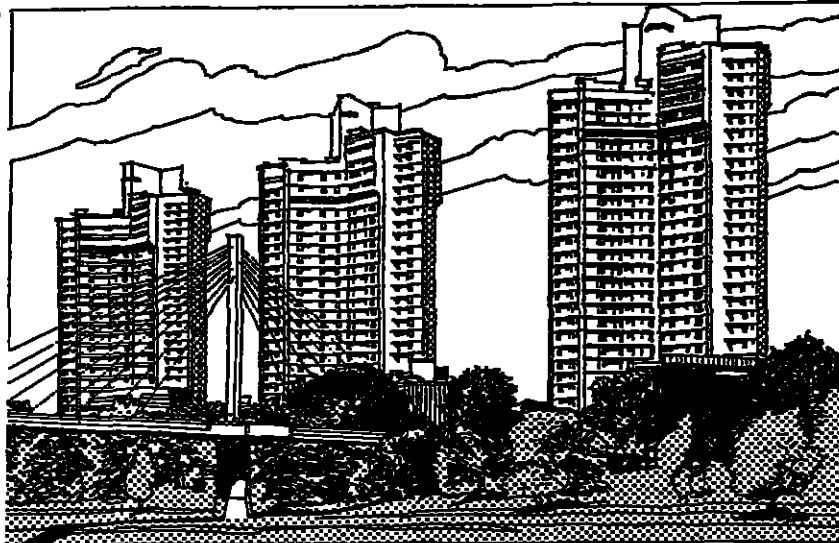
Walkover Estates, the newly acquired horticultural farm in Zambia, exported 10 tonnes of high grade produce a week to Europe generating valuable foreign exchange.

In Mozambique cotton production rose to 26,000 tonnes with Lomaco being the highest yielding cotton grower in Africa. Tomato yields were also exceptional. Developments in Cabo Delgado Province will see this become an area of huge agricultural productivity.



Tea picking — Mafindi Tea Company, Tanzania.

The agro-industrial business in Kenya started a major expansion of the Farmers Choice pork-processing company, which includes a new factory and processing equipment, the establishment of a feed-milling operation and a large increase in the size of the pig herds. This operation has substantial export potential. Our beef cattle herd of 120,000 head had a trouble free year. Twenty thousand were marketed.



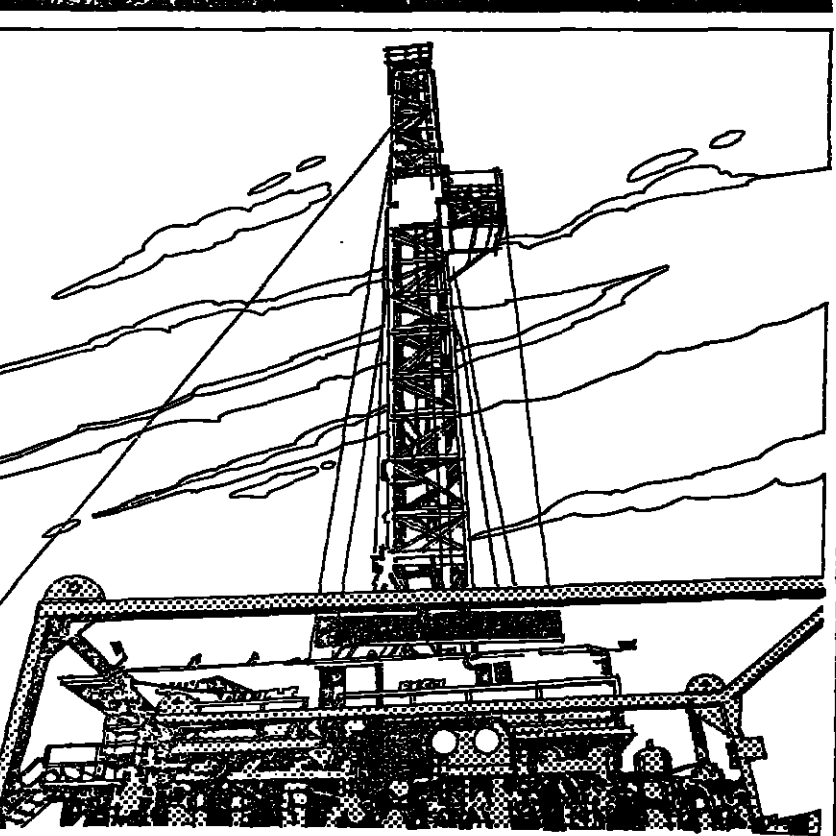
Flats at Mannheim, Germany — some of the 4,400 owned by GEWOG.

### 1990 AT A GLANCE

	1990	1989
Turnover	£5,476m	£5,108m
Profit before tax		
— Operations	£273m	£235m
— Sale of bulk whisky stocks		£38m
Profit attributable to Shareholders		
— Operations	£148m	£140m
— Sale of bulk whisky stocks		£25m
Earnings per share		
— Operations	23.6p	23.0p
— Sale of bulk whisky stocks		4.1p
Dividends per share	16.0p	14.2p
Cash balances	£355m	£376m

Turnover includes the Group's share of turnover of associates amounting to £2,330m (1989 — £1,990m). Earnings and dividends per share for 1989 have been adjusted for the capitalisation issue in 1990. A final dividend of 8p per share for the year to 30 September 1990, and a first interim dividend of 3p for the current year, will be paid on 8 April 1991.

The eighty-second Annual General Meeting of Lonrho Plc will be held at The Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London, EC2 on Thursday, 21 March, 1991 at 11.30 a.m.



Drilling rig — Hondo Oil & Gas, Permian Basin, Texas.

### HOTELS

The Metropole Hotel Group once again maintained profit growth, with the Group's prime area of business, conferences, being very resilient to the general economic difficulties in the United Kingdom.

Major bedroom and conference room extensions were completed in Birmingham and Blackpool.

The extension to the London Metropole will be completed in 1991 which will make the hotel the top conference hotel in London.

Princess Hotels has maintained a leading position in the quality end of the resort and convention market, although the hotel industry in the United States has had a very difficult year.

The Scotsdale Princess has now attained the same fine reputation as the Acapulco Princess and the Southampton Princess. The Bermuda hotels had another good year.

The purchase of the Hotel Cardosa in Mozambique was concluded in May. In Kenya the Mara Safari Club, a luxury tented camp near to the famous Masai Mara

Game Reserve, was opened in March.

An extension to the Merville Beach Hotel in Mauritius has been completed, increasing the bedroom capacity by 50 per cent. Work has also started on a 100 room hotel in Accra, Ghana.

### MOTOR DISTRIBUTION

Further good progress has been maintained in the development of V-A-G (United Kingdom). The Volkswagen and Audi market share has increased with Audi unit



Jack Barclay, Rolls-Royce and Bentley distributor — London.

sales up by 16.5 per cent. in the U.K. market which declined in 1990 by 10.5 per cent.

MAN improved its share in a declining market with a modern range of highly competitive trucks and steady development of the dealer network.

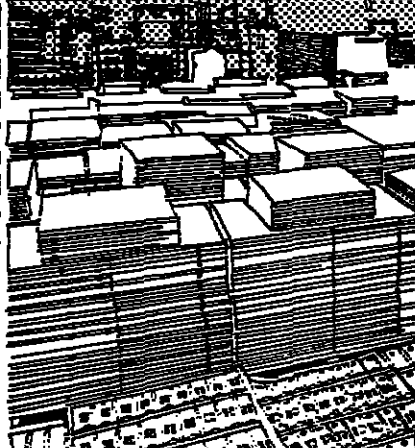
The Dutton-Forslow Motor Group has now completed its reorganisation and re-financing programme. Trading in 1990 was very difficult with new car volumes down and margins suffering in an over supplied market.

Dutton-Forslow Machinery had a hard year. Seat Concessionaires (UK) was sold in the year to Seat S.A.

Jack Barclay continued to be the premier distributor of Britain's best known marques, Bentley and Rolls-Royce.

In Kenya, Motor Mart was awarded the Yamaha franchise encompassing motorcycles, marine and power products and, with its other franchises, it is widely acclaimed as the motor industry leader.

The motors, mining and agricultural supplies divisions in Zambia all had an excellent year.

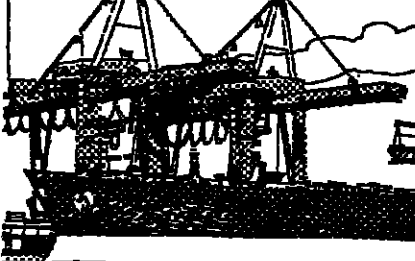


Travellers cheques and currency notes printed by Harrison & Sons — High Wycombe.

### PRINTING & PUBLISHING

George Orrum & Co, publishers of the Glasgow Herald and Evening Times, and Scottish & Universal Newspapers, who publish one daily and twenty-four weekly titles, both achieved their highest ever trading profits.

Harrison & Sons has continued to grow rapidly from its base as security printers in the highly competitive currency printing



market. Contracts have been won in Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America and the company also won a contract to supply all Barclays' Visa travellers cheques for the EC.

### OIL & GAS

It has been a year of growth and improved profitability for Hondo Oil & Gas.

Exploration efforts have resulted in several significant discoveries in West Texas and Hondo hold a strong acreage position on the most promising areas.



Cold rolled strip at British Rolling Mills — West Midlands.

Hondo's oil and gas reserve position improved significantly during the year in spite of the sale of several major properties.

The company's refining and marketing operations were increasingly profitable. Hondo has recently started to produce jet fuel at the Fletcher refinery and will substantially increase production over the next two years.

### ENGINEERING

The Firstel Group has been affected by the recession in the United Kingdom. Construction, automotive and capital goods markets have all suffered, resulting in a reduction in demand and a squeeze on margins for all products.

The Steel Division acquired British Rolling Mills, manufacturers of cold rolled strip, and J A Hemming, stockholders, during the year and is now the largest

independent steel strip distributor in the United Kingdom.

Firstel Metal Products enjoyed a very profitable year while Newell Dunford maintained its level of export sales.

The Group's truck and bus manufacturing company in Zimbabwe, W Dahmer, once again improved its production and profitability.

Despite price resistance and competition from other manufacturers, Vitreux Paints in Zambia had an excellent year.

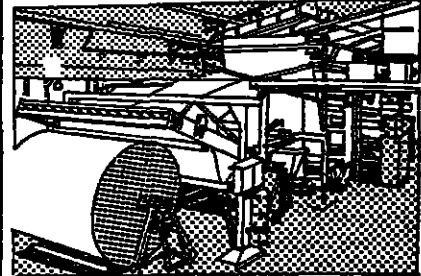
The fibreglass boat factory in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, which was opened last year, produced 285 boats of various sizes.

### TEXTILES

The David Whitehead Group in Lancashire had an extremely successful year achieving high profits. John Barnes is now a major European supplier of knitted backing fabrics. Besco Baron quadrupled its sales in the garden furniture market.

Consumer demand for household furnishings in the United Kingdom has been very depressed. The performance of the Lonrho Textiles retail chains and the manufacturing division has been affected, with sales ahead of last year but margins reduced.

In Zimbabwe David Whiteheads' profits were substantially ahead of last year as a result of demand for its output being consistently strong.



Cloth processing, Sinter — Lonrho Textiles, Cranston.

David Whiteheads in Malawi produced 36.7 million square metres of cloth in the year and commenced a six-year capital expenditure programme.

### INTERNATIONAL TRADE & GENERAL

The diverse nature of Krupp Lonrho's various trading activities contributed to an overall improvement in the profit performance this year. The ocean shipping fleet had its most profitable year yet and the railway equipment business traded successfully with its international contracts.

Baumann Hilde, the Group's cotton trader, reported good profits during a period of firm but stable international prices.

Balfour Williamson continues to develop successfully its international procurement services.

The property investments held by London City & Westcliff Properties have performed well with good rent reviews.

Cominere, in Belgium, is rebuilding its headquarters in Brussels which has considerable development potential.

The development of Lonrho House in Nairobi is due for completion in early 1991.

The PTH Group was sold in July for £67.5 million cash.



'Rühr Ore' — one of the fourteen Krupp Lonrho bulk carrier fleet.

The newly acquired associate GEWOG which owns 4,400 flats in South West Germany has had a profitable year.

Major contracting projects have substantially contributed to the profits of Bernard Sunley. SKIP, the Group's oil trading associate which was acquired in July 1990, has benefited from the movement in oil prices since the start of the Gulf crisis and has made a positive contribution to profits.

The Group operates 35 aircraft across Africa.

### FREIGHT

The emphasis of Kühne & Nagel's regional development is in Europe. Developments are taking place in the former socialist countries, particularly from ten operational bases in Eastern Germany, in Poznan, Poland, and in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

The consolidation of the Kühne & Nagel activities in Hungary is underway, and negotiations for joint ventures in both Romania and Yugoslavia are about to be concluded.



One of the 230,000 containers moved by Kühne & Nagel during 1990.

Favourable results were reported in Canada and business developments in Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil have been successful.

The activities in the Far East were enhanced by the opening of container freight stations in both Korea and Thailand and business in the region continues to be strong, particularly in Japan, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The traditional forwarding activities of seafreight and airfreight continue to operate profitably.

The text is taken from the Chief Executive's Statement and Review of Operations contained in the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 September 1990 which will be published in late February. Copies will be available from the Secretary, Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL.

# LONRHO

Lonrho Plc, Cheapside House, 138 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6BL



## Portfolio PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited  
**DAILY DIVIDEND**  
**£4,000**  
**Claims required for +51 points**

**Claimants should ring 0254-53272**

	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Winnipeg	302	370	-	13.7	4.5	16.3		
Worley Can	5	96	-			94.5		
Wiggins Twp Ags	177	178	+1	11.1	6.2			

PROPERTY								
77 Allied Lon	80	84	-	4.7	3.7	35.0		
80 Arcadia	75	85	-	4.7	3.9			
58 Asph	67	70	-	2.3	3.8	13.5		
31 BHM Group	28	39	-	2.7	6.7	8.1		
49 Baker Hous	45	54	-	2.7	5.4	7.9		
325 Baker (P)	358	530	-	22.4	32.7	43.9		
55 Beane Co	53	56	+2	4.5	6.7	6.8		
55 Butler	120	123	+4	4.5	3.7	14.8		

	High	Low	Stock	Price	Chge	Int only yld%	Gross Red yld%
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1980/81	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	2041/42	2042/43	2043/44	2044/45	2045/46	2046/47	2047/48	2048/49	2049/50	2050/51	2051/52	2052/53	2053/54	2054/55	2055/56	2056/57	2057/58	2058/59	2059/60	2060/61	2061/62	2062/63	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68	2068/69	2069/70	2070/71	2071/72	2072/73	2073/74	2074/75	2075/76	2076/77	2077/78	2078/79	2079/80	2080/81	2081/82	2082/83	2083/84	2084/85	2085/86	2086/87	2087/88	2088/89	2089/90	2090/91	2091/92	2092/93	2093/94	2094/95	2095/96	2096/97	2097/98	2098/99	2099/00	2100/01	2101/02	2102/03	2103/04	2104/05	2105/06	2106/07	2107/08	2108/09	2109/10	2110/11	2111/12	2112/13	2113/14	2114/15	2115/16	2116/17	2117/18	2118/19	2119/20	2120/21	2121/22	2122/23	2123/24	2124/25	2125/26	2126/27	2127/28	2128/29	2129/30	2130/31	2131/32	2132/33	2133/34	2134/35	2135/36	2136/37	2137/38	2138/39	2139/40	2140/41	2141/42	2142/43	2143/44	2144/45	2145/46	2146/47	2147/48	2148/49	2149/50	2150/51	2151/52	2152/53	2153/54	2154/55	2155/56	2156/57	2157/58	2158/59	2159/60	2160/61	2161/62	2162/63	2163/64	2164/65	2165/66	2166/67	2167/68	2168/69	2169/70	2170/71	2171/72	2172/73	2173/74	2174/75	2175/76	2176/77	2177/78	2178/79	2179/80	2180/81	2181/82	2182/83	2183/84	2184/85	2185/86	2186/87	2187/88	2188/89	2189/90	2190/91	2191/92	2192/93	2193/94	2194/95	2195/96	2196/97	2197/98	2198/99	2199/00	2200/01	2201/02	2202/03	2203/04	2204/05	2205/06	2206/07	2207/08	2208/09	2209/10	2210/11	2211/12	2212/13	2213/14	2214/15	2215/16	2216/17	2217/18	2218/19	2219/20	2220/21	2221/22	2222/23	2223/24	2224/25	2225/26	2226/27	2227/28	2228/29	2229/30	2230/31	2231/32	2232/33	2233/34	2234/35	2235/36	2236/37	2237/38	2238/39	2239/40	2240/41	2241/42	2242/43	2243/44	2244/45	2245/46	2246/47	2247/48	2248/49	2249/50	2250/51	2251/52	2252/53	2253/54	2254/55	2255/56	2256/57	2257/58	2258/59	2259/60	2260/61	2261/62	2262/63	2263/64	2264/65	2265/66	2266/67	2267/68	2268/69	2269/70	2270/71	2271/72	2272/73	2273/74	2274/75	2275/76	2276/77	2277/78	2278/79	2279/80	2280/81	2281/82	2282/83	2283/84	2284/85	2285/86	2286/87	2287/88	2288/89	2289/90	2290/91	2291/92	2292/93	2293/94	2294/95	2295/96	2296/97	2297/98	2298/99	2299/00	2300/01	2301/02	2302/03	2303/04	2304/05	2305/06	2306/07	2307/08	2308/09	2309/10	2310/11	2311/12	2312/13	2313/14	2314/15	2315/16	2316/17	2317/18	2318/19	2319/20	2320/21	2321/22	2322/23	2323/24	2324/25	2325/26	2326/27	2327/28	2328/29	2329/30	2330/31	2331/32	2332/33	2333/34	2334/35	2335/36	2336/37	2337/38	2338/39	2339/40	2340/41	2341/42	2342/43	2343/44	2344/45	2345/46	2346/47	2347/48	2348/49	2349/50	2350/51	2351/52	2352/53	2353/54	2354/55	2355/56	2356/57	2357/58	2358/59	2359/60	2360/61	2361/62	2362/63	2363/64	2364/65	2365/66	2366/67	2367/68	2368/69	2369/70	2370/71	2371/72	2372/73	2373/74	2374/75	2375/76	2376/77	2377/78	2378/79	2379/80	2380/81	2381/82	2382/83	2383/84	2384/85	2385/86	2386/87	2387/88	2388/89	2389/90	2390/91	2391/92	2392/93	2393/94	2394/95	2395/96	2396/97	2397/98	2398/99	2399/00	2400/01	2401/02	2402/03	2403/04	2404/05	2405/06	2406/07	2407/08	2408/09	2409/10	2410/11	2411/12	2412/13	2413/14	2414/15	2415/16	2416/17	2417/18	2418/19	2419/20	2420/21	2421/22	2422/23	2423/24	2424/25	2425/26	2426/27	2427/28	2428/29	2429/30	2430/31	2431/32	2432/33	2433/34	2434/35	2435/36	2436/37	2437/38	2438/39	2439/40	2440/41	2441/42	2442/43	2443/44	2444/45	2445/46	2446/47	2447/48	2448/49	2449/50	2450/51	2451/52	2452/53	2453/54	2454/55	2455/56	2456/57	2457/58	2458/59	2459/60	2460/61	2461/62	2462/63	2463/64	2464/65	2465/66	2466/67	2467/68	2468/69	2469/70	2470/71	2471/72	2472/73	2473/74	2474/75	2475/76	2476/77	2477/78	2478/79	2479/80	2480/81	2481/82	2482/83	2483/84	2484/85	2485/86	2486/87	2487/88	2488/89	2489/90	2490/91	2491/92	2492/93	2493/94	2494/95	2495/96	2496/97	2497/98	2498/99	2499/00	2500/01	2501/02	2502/03	2503/04	2504/05	2505/06	2506/07	2507/08	2508/09	2509/10	2510/11	2511/12	2512/13	2513/14	2514/15	2515/16	2516/17	2517/18	2518/19	2519/20	2520/21	2521/22	2522/23	2523/24	2524/25	2525/26	2526/27	2527/28	2528/29	2529/30	2530/31	2531/32	2532/33	2533/34	2534/35	2535/36	2536/37	2537/38	2538/39	2539/40	2540/41	2541/42	2542/43	2543/44	2544/45	2545/46	2546/47	2547/48	2548/49	2549/50	2550/51	2551/52	2552/53	2553/54	2554/55	2555/56	2556/57	2557/58	2558/59	2559/60	2560/61	2561/62	2562/63	2563/64	2564/65	2565/66	2566/67	2567/68	2568/69	2569/70	2570/71	2571/72	2572/73	2573/74	2574/75	2575/76	2576/77	2577/78	2578/79	2579/80	2580/81	2581/82	2582/83	2583/84	2584/85	2585/86	2586/87	2587/88	2588/89	2589/90	2590/91	2591/92	2592/93	2593/94	2594/95	2595/96	2596/97	2597/98	2598/99	2599/00	2600/01	2601/02	2602/03	2603/04	2604/05	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211a	North Wales	200	202	+0.6%	21.0	7.4	6.2
200	Scottish Water	200	202	+0.5%	20.0	7.4	6.2
200	South West	200	202	+0.5%	20.0	7.4	6.2
200	Thames Valley	200	202	+0.5%	20.0	7.4	6.2
200	Thames Water	200	202	+0.5%	20.0	7.4	6.2
200	Yorkshire Water	200	202	+0.5%	20.0	7.4	6.2
200	Wales Water 1999*	200	202	+0.4%	19.3	7.5	4.0
200	Wales Water	200	202	+0.4%	19.3	7.5	4.0
200	Widley Water	200	202	+0.5%	22.4	7.5	4.0
200	Worcestershire	200	202	+0.5%	20.0	7.5	4.0
221a	Yorkshire Water	200	202	+0.5%	20.0	7.1	6.2
200	Forfeiture Unit	220a	202	+0.425%			

• Ex dividend • Ex all b Forecast dividend • Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings • Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.







# The making of a Euromanager

**R**eal Euromanagers speak several languages. They are open-minded and sensitive to foreign cultures, and at least part of their career is spent outside the mother country.

This Euromanager profile emerges from interviews with a French company, Rhône-Poulenc, and a German company, Henkel, and is published in a paper co-written by Frank Bournois, of the French business school Groupe ESC Lyon, and a British business school academic, Colin Gordon.

A report by the headhunters Saxton Bampfylde reaches similar conclusions. It says: "The ideal Euromanager... is the product of a multinational marriage and education, has early experience of another culture and language... and has spent some time (not too much) working in a multinational company... and has a flexible cast of mind with social skills to match."

What are we doing to educate the elite and sought-after Euro-executive cadre in this country? One could send one's offspring to a school such as the Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle, where they would become bilingual or trilingual, and are exposed early on to the ways of foreigners. The figures reveal, however, that "growing" a good supply of culturally tolerant polyglot Euro-children is anything but fashionable.

Whereas the percentage of children with British parents attending the Lycée was a healthy 42 per cent

As practical experience of other cultures becomes vital in the fight for international business, Clare Hogg looks at courses available

of total pupil numbers in 1966, the proportion dropped to 20 to 25 per cent in the Eighties and last year dipped to 14 per cent.

Yves de Saint-Do, the headmaster, outlines the reasons for the trend: the numbers of French children, who have first call on places at the school, have increased because more French corporations have established a base in London. There is also an unprecedented increase in the number of nationalities at the school; this body of pupils, from about 70 different countries, makes up 30 per cent of pupils. The figures hide one encouraging development, which M de Saint-Do has noticed during the past seven years of his tenure. The number of British students applying to take A-levels in modern languages is steadily growing.

What happens after school? An option might be to apply for one of the Hoechst scholarships. The company sends German-speaking Britons to its Frankfurt headquarters, where they qualify as Industriekaufleute, a qualification equivalent to an elementary MBA. They are attached to different departments in Hoechst for practical experience. If the Euro-minded student decides to go to university, there is growing scope for continuing the international theme. Engineering courses are an example. Already 25 per cent of



Training recruit: Dieter Eismar

Engineering Council registrants work abroad and, in response to their requirements, Brunel university is offering courses where 20 per cent of the teaching is in French or German. Brunel is not the first university to do so.

Then what? Andrew Crisp, a director of ATS Quest, a consultancy specialising in helping employers to recruit the best graduates in Europe, says: "The ambitious graduate of today who wants to reach the top in his or her chosen field believes international experience will be a prerequisite to making progress. The mobile and successful executive of tomorrow will have experience in at least one foreign country."

Graduates also believe they should speak more than one

language. Those with an understanding of a second language see that the best way to improve that understanding is to get a job abroad, where daily practice of the language is involved. This means that aspiring Euromanagers are looking for reputable corporations with strongly European graduate training schemes.

**D**espite a slowing in recruitment, companies competing for the cream of the Euro-graduate output are having to work harder. One has only to look at Proctor & Gamble's impressive invitation to "top students across Europe" to a Euro Financial Seminar to be held at its Paris headquarters in April. Twenty-four successful bright sparks will not only have all their travel and accommodation expenses paid, but will be offered the "opportunity to enter the real business world, develop management and financial skills, working with Proctor & Gamble executives on an important European project."

The Autobar Federation, a group of about 50 companies spread across Europe, with a turnover of £500 million and a total of 6,000 employees, offers the near-as-possible perfect graduate training scheme to attract the potential Euromanager. Every year, the company re-

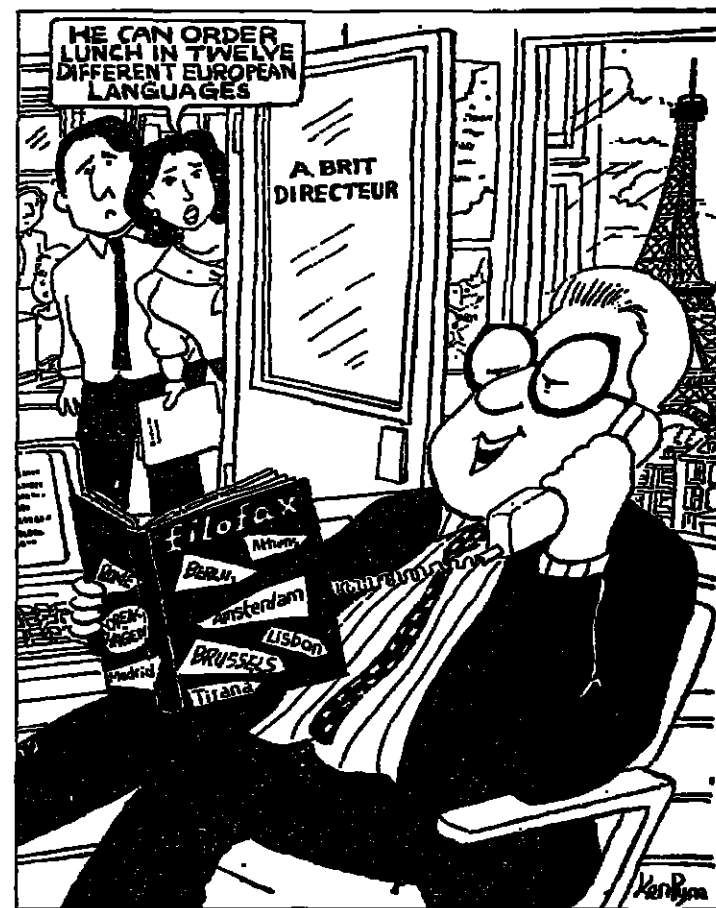
cruits throughout Europe. Typically, the new trainees spend three months at a host company, three months at a raw materials supplier in a second country, and three months working at another group company in a third country. In the second year, they are given a supervisory position.

Dieter Eismar is a good example of how the system works. He was recruited from Germany. "I was immediately given a six-month project," he says. "I have very relevant skills and experience, and I was made responsible for the projection of a polyester extrusion line, worth £800,000. I did all the preparation, including the discussion with suppliers."

After his initial period in Germany, he was sent to Apeldoorn, in The Netherlands. Working there was less formal, but just as hard. Herr Eismar was investigating the adhesion of print colours to drinking cups. His next three months were in Durham.

Herr Eismar says: "When you are sent somewhere new, Autobar puts you on a two-week induction course. You go all around the company, to the exports, accounts and marketing departments. The idea is that later, when a problem arises, we will know whom to contact, the organisation structure and who is responsible for whom."

He followed this with six months in Germany, finishing his original project, and becoming involved in marketing. Then he had three months in France, and finally returned to Germany.



Herr Eismar found the Autobar scheme flexible. He says: "All my peers are doing totally different things but we have the international dimension in common. One of the advantages is that in travelling you make a lot of contacts, many of whom become friends."

considers the programme one of the best ways of developing future Euromanagers, not only fluent in at least three languages, but able to feel comfortable in almost any European country.

Copies of the paper by Colin Gordon and Frank Bournois are available from Colin Gordon, Cranfield School of Management, Bedford MK43 0AL (0234 751122).

Ron Kelly, who is responsible for graduate training at Autobar,

## INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS



THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

in MUNICH is looking for a number of

### LAWYERS

for its Patent Law (ref. EXT/518) and International Affairs (ref. EXT/519) Directorates

Both directorates deal primarily with questions of patent law, the emphasis being on EPO practice, legal developments and cooperation with EPC Contracting States. Essential personal qualities include commitment, creativity, and the ability to work largely independently as part of a team. We are particularly interested in applicants with practical experience of patent law generally, and knowledge of European patent law and the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

**Requirements:** University diploma in law or - in exceptional cases - equivalent knowledge acquired over many years of qualified work, excellent knowledge of one official language (English, French, German) and ability to understand the other two.

**Conditions:** We offer an above-average salary, free from national income tax, comparable to those offered by other international organisations and a comprehensive package of social benefits (health insurance, retirement pension, etc.).

**Application Form:** This is obtainable from the Principal Directorate Personnel, European Patent Office, Erhardtstrasse 27, W-8000 Munich 2, Germany (Tel. 089/2399-4138), must be returned completed (quoting the relevant reference No. by 4 March 1991).

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## BRIEFINGS

FROM Monday the government will fulfil a promise to extend the Loan Guarantee Scheme to small enterprises in agriculture and horticulture. Eric Forth, the small firms minister, believes farmers and growers will welcome the move. The LGS guarantees 70 per cent of a bank loan, with a 2.5 per cent premium paid by borrowers.

ALPHA Business Centre opened yesterday at Walthamstow, London, with a mixture of studio and workshop space for small businesses. A typical unit can cost as little as £140 a week, including service charges. There are reception facilities, telephone answering facilities, bureau services and 24 hour security. A joint venture between London Industrial, with its London Business Centres subsidiary, and the London Borough of Waltham Forest, it is intended as a nursery for starter businesses. Enquiries to London Business Centres at 071 247 7614.

## MR FRIDA



"Well, it's been a good year so far - I'm surviving"

## Wills on wheels ease the pain

By BRIAN COLLETT

FEARS and taboos stop many people from making a will. They are the deterrents that Gillian Jenkins has made it her business to remove.

She set up a will-making service in November 1989, and now has six people in other parts of the country working with her.

Mrs Jenkins qualified as a barrister but did not practise. While lecturing part-time on legal topics she identified a need for specialist will-writing.

She found that 70 per cent of people died without a will, some of them leaving a legacy of domestic problems. Family solicitors normally draw up wills but few specialise in this aspect of law. Mrs Jenkins also found that will-making by filling in a form was a little-favoured method. Many people complete the documents incorrectly, others dislike forms.

The time as well as the market seemed right to Mrs Jenkins. "I wanted to run my own show. At the same time I wanted to put my legal knowledge to good use."

The service, offered from her home in Barnes, southwest London, was intended to overcome the common mental blocks. "People find the prospect of making a will daunting. They do not like to face the fact. They are also daunted by the thought of going to an unknown solicitor in the high street." Her solution was to take her service to clients' homes, offices or other mutually convenient place. "It is a kind of



Wills the easy way: Gillian Jenkins takes the formality out of the ordeal of making a will

will on wheels service. People seem to like visits at home."

She started by providing the service for friends. Some local publicity added to her custom and she approached other professionals, such as financial advisers. "Now some accountants refer work to me. Some solicitors pass clients on to me because they are so busy and the work is not so profitable as they have offices to maintain and other overheads."

How do the reluctant public react to her wills on wheels? "They are relieved that will-making is not as traumatic as they expected. Going to people's homes helps to lessen the formality," Mrs Jenkins has also been able to dispel some misunderstandings. "If one of the partners of a marriage without children dies intestate, often only the first £125,000 plus chattels goes automatically to the surviving partner. Half the remainder also goes to the partner but the rest is shared among the relatives of the partner who has died."

Mrs Jenkins has noticed an unlikely pattern in will-making. She expected the summer to be

quiet but work intensified instead. The probable reason: families going on holiday fear aircraft and train crashes and sea disasters.

Six legally qualified women work as her tied agents in Cambridge, Reading, Winchester, the Canterbury area, North Yorkshire and Oxfordshire.

## Firms build bridges to France ahead of the single market

By SALLY WATTS

TWO Bedfordshire companies, in widely differing fields, are successfully building initiatives in France, long regarded as a difficult market for Britons to enter. One is in data communications, the other in architecture.

Barkers International Communications, a family business in Bedford with 28 employees and a £2 million turnover, designs, manufactures and distributes fibre optics.

Barkers began by assessing the European prospects, had some help from the trade department and joined the local chamber of commerce. Barkers now retains Michel Demontoux, the chamber's export development adviser, as consultant to the company.

Early last year, at a French government-sponsored event to promote Anglo-French business links, it arranged to visit Sarnie, a data communications manufacturer near Paris.

Richard Houghton, the technical director, said: "They design for satellites, but had only been going five years, had just broken even and were impressed that we have always been profitable."

He and Brian Whitlock, who owns the business, hope to design and manufacture through joint ventures. The next stage is to design the first product jointly.

Manufacturing could be in either country. The benefits will come through marketing and selling, with each company acting for the other. Now Mr Houghton is planning to visit a telecommunications business in Lyons, where another link may be forged.

With interests already in Spain and elsewhere, Mr Houghton believes small business should forge links with its European counterparts and that managers should cultivate a foreign language.

He said: "People should get out there and do something. Many businesses are too apathetic about Europe - not forward-looking."

At the chamber of commerce, Mr Demontoux fears British small businesses will lose in the single market. He has also advised one of the few architectural practices to enter Europe.

Howard Fairbairn and Partners, with 30 staff and three branches in Britain, has completed a factory and office complex in Normandy, a joint venture with Higgs and Hill (France) as developer.

In 1989, the partnership opened a Paris office, run by a French architect, and has formed an association with Sarc, an established Paris practice, to gain continuing technical support and new business.

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# The stylish coupé makes a comeback

Newly affluent couples of the Nineties are helping to revive the demand for sporty cars, says Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

Dinkies have arrived. That does not herald a bright new future for the tiny toy cars, but marks the realisation among motor manufacturers that there is a growing group of big spenders. Dinkies - couples with Double Income and No Kids - like cars and have plenty of money.

As the recession bit during the early Eighties, there was no room for the frivolity of sports cars and coupés in such tight times. Bimlaks - Big Mortgage, Loads of Kids - were the majority and needed solid, five-seater saloons. That helped lead to the demise of the old Ford Capri, a best-selling two-door appealing to the young driver, who wanted a sporty car but needed only two rear bucket seats to carry friends on an evening out. The only other real two-door, two-plus-two-seater, the Audi coupe and quattro series, were out of the reach of most buyers.

Economic revival throughout Europe made a huge difference and soon car-makers were designing vehicles to appeal to affluent dinkies, leading to a plethora of coupés to replace the Capri and Audi's quattro. Sports coupés accounted for 1.6 per cent of the total car market last year, about 32,400 vehicles worth £400 million at a conservative estimate. More significantly, sales of coupés rose 25.9 per cent last year while car sales overall fell by almost 13 per cent.

Manufacturers have homed in on the growing interest in sporty two-plus-two models and rewarded it with some of the most interesting cars on the road.

Give a designer a pen and a brief to enjoy drawing the shape of a car

that does not need rear doors, or a cavernous boot to house the holiday buckets and spades and surfboard, and he is in his element.

Unfortunately, most of the coupé market has been surrendered to the Japanese. Three of the five top-selling coupés are Japanese. The Honda Prelude, for example, has been a classic modern shape, with its droop nose and high rear, and has also provided the test bed for four-wheel drive and four-wheel steering. Toyota's MR2 and Celica have also maintained a character carved by many European manufacturers. In its latest incarnation, the Celica GT-Four has a luxurious interior giving little clue to the power beneath the bonnet from the two-litre, 16-valve, turbo-charged engine.

The Celica's top speed is a more than ample 142mph. More important is that 0 to 60mph comes in 6.7 seconds, with confident overtaking acceleration in third and fourth gears, and limpet-like cornering thanks to the permanent four-wheel drive.

At last, however, the Europeans have entered the arena and can again offer coupés to challenge the best of those from the Japanese.

Volkswagen hopes its Corrado 16v will make an impression, although I have some doubts. Styling is dramatic with a stubby body, which cuts down the leg room in the back.

Performance is relatively pedestrian with 0 to 60mph in 8.1 seconds and a top speed of 132mph, but the introduction later this year of the supercharged G60



Vauxhall Calibra 2.0i 16v: 0 to 60mph in 8.5 seconds, top speed 139mph, fuel consumption 27.2 mpg around town. Price: £17,595



Volkswagen Corrado 16v: £17,500 for top speed of 132mph

promises more power for the enthusiast.

Only the Vauxhall Calibra can trade performance for looks. Although launched only last June, the Calibra is deservedly the best-

selling sports coupé on the market - with 4,000 sold in 1990.

Under the bonnet, Calibra engines have few surprises. The well-established family of General Motors power packs are already in



Toyota Celica GT-Four: £22,380 for top speed of 142.9mph

service with the best-selling Cavalier models. But even the fastest 2.0i 16-valve model Calibra can offer only 139mph and a 0 to 60mph time of 8.5 seconds, hardly

statistics to have the supercar enthusiasts drooling at the mouth.

But none of that matters when taken in conjunction with the Calibra's astonishing shape - a car that combines futuristic design with individuality.

## Citroën takes a turn for greater efficiency

WITH the spotlight turning towards smaller, more fuel-efficient cars, Citroën has shown excellent timing with the launch of its new ZX range (Kevin Eason writes).

More than four million cars in this sector, led by the VW Golf, are already sold throughout Europe. Citroën expects the market to grow as buyers search for small but luxurious cars.

The ZX slips between the French company's current AX

mini and BX mid-range series and comes in a four-model, four-engine set.

The base model is a 75 brake horse power (bhp), 1.3-litre Reflex capable of a top speed of 107mph and round-town fuel consumption of 37.2 miles to a gallon of unleaded petrol. The top model, the sporty Volcano, produces 130bhp and a maximum speed of 127mph.

Citroën has always had a reputa-

tion for innovative handling and suspension systems, and the ZX boasts a new generation that promises remarkable handling characteristics.

The trend has been towards "active" four-wheel steering, which has all four wheels individually powered to turn together to reduce the turning circle and improve handling at motorway speeds. The ZX has, instead, a passive system allowing the rear

wheels to turn in the same direction as the front wheels, making the car more stable.

Citroën says the system - which it calls a programmed self-steer effect - makes a marked difference to the handling of its new small car, something that British drivers will want to sample for themselves when the car arrives later this year. Prices are to be announced, but expect the ZX to be competitive with rivals.



The sporty Citroën Volcano has a maximum speed of 127mph

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**26 SF** 1989, 1900 cc, 2000 miles, FSH, immaculate.



















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# THE TIMES

## SPORT

### Video helps clear Webb of using violent conduct

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Webb, who was sent off for violent conduct during England's B international in Algeria last month, has been found innocent of the charge by the Football Association. He can be selected by Graham Taylor, who is to announce his senior squad on Monday, for the international against Cameroon at Wembley nine days later.

Webb's dismissal was unquestionably harsh and justice has been seen to prevail, but an anomaly in the disciplinary system has been exposed. He was exonerated yesterday partly because a video confirmed that, although he reacted angrily to Rahim's injudicious two-footed tackle, he restrained himself from physically assaulting the Algerian.

Yet defendants who believe they might have been equally falsely accused of committing a professional foul in a domestic fixture have no such recourse. Visual illustration of a referee's error, no matter how convincing it may be, cannot be submitted in their defence. A three-match suspension is imposed automatically.

There has been a case this season of a referee's decision being overturned. Keith Hackett, in response to a complaint lodged by Watford, reviewed the incident and agreed that the card he issued to Keith Dublin during the game at Leicester City on December 23 should have been yellow rather than red.

Dublin's offence was not a professional foul, which has become the most controversial feature of the season and

the reason given for almost a third of the dismissals. Fifa's directive, in spite of recent amendments, remains so open to interpretation that it continues to cause widespread confusion.

Webb himself witnessed the most recent example at Old Trafford on Wednesday night. Jimmy Case was ordered off during the Rumbelows Cup quarter-final replay by George Courtney for no more than brushing the trailing leg of Bryan Robson. Even he offered his sympathy to Southampton's captain.

Robson conceded that, since two other defenders were converging on him halfway inside Southampton's half, he could scarcely be described as having "a goalscoring opportunity."

Courtney later deepened the mystery when he showed contrasting leniency towards Les Sealey, who was merely booked for bringing down Rodney Wallace inside the area.

Since a penalty was subsequently awarded, Manchester United's goalkeeper must presumably have been guilty of a deliberate foul. Whereas Wallace fell within the shadow of a post, Robson was at least 35 yards away from goal. There can have been no more graphic example of the inconsistency.

Case, given no opportunity to plea for clemency, is not the first to suffer in silence. Nor will he be the last. As England's manager has indicated, the FA is unwilling to step into the ill-defined grey

area for fear of undermining the already fragile authority of the referee.

Yet the three-man commission (Jack Hayward, of Essex, Barry Bright, of Kent, and Ron Barston, of Leicester) yesterday rejected the opinion of Neji Jouini, the Tunisian official who sent off both Webb and Rahim on December 11. His report arrived at Lancaster Gate only last week.

Apart from watching the film of the incident, the committee heard from Webb, Taylor and Chris Wilcox, the FA's vice-chairman who attended the game in Algeria. It was thought then that a one-match suspension was likely to be imposed as a token gesture to reinforce the code of discipline.

Tony Cottee, who was sent off for reckless retaliation during an under-21 game in West Germany three years ago, was banned for three senior internationals and has never been in contention since for a regular place in the squad. Webb, therefore, can consider himself fortunate to avoid even the mildest punishment.

"Having examined all the evidence available", a FA spokesman said, "the committee members are not satisfied that Neil Webb was guilty of a sending off offence. He will be available for selection against Cameroon." He is, nevertheless, unlikely to be in the starting line-up.

Newcastle United have agreed terms of £300,500 with the Czechoslovak club, Banik Ostrava, for their goalkeeper, Pavel Srnec.

### Happy landings for Scudamore

IAN STEWART



Winning return for Peter Scudamore at Newton Abbot yesterday as Martin Pipe's Outside Edge helped the champion jockey to celebrate a successful comeback on his first day back after a ten-week absence with a broken leg. Report, page 33

### Russell keeps his Test place

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
ADELAIDE

ENGLAND last night pulled back from the folly of sacrificing the world's finest wicket-keeper as a desperate attempt to load their Test team with bowling.

All week long here speculation has centred on the possibility that Jack Russell would be harshly dismissed for today's fourth Test at the Adelaide Oval, a casualty of others' inadequacies. But when the tour selectors announced a squad of 13, Russell's name was present and Peter Lush, the manager, confirmed that he would play.

Russell could, and should, be seen as one of England's few indispensable players, no sooner does his batting enter a trough than he finds his place at risk. The reason is plain. England have no all-rounders but Russell, through the dedicated self-improvement of his batting, comes the closest.

He even likes to call himself an all-rounder and, arguably, works harder on his batting during net practice than do most of the higher-order men. Time after time, he is last to leave the nets, often batting for up to two hours. His relatively lean form on this tour — only 77 runs in five Test innings — troubles him greatly but, if he is not making sufficient runs, so the theory goes, it is better to play six batsmen, one of whom can wear the wicketkeeping gloves, and five specialist bowlers.

It is a flawed theory, of course. Russell's leg-side stumping of Jones in Sydney, standing up to the fast-medium Small, would have been beyond most full-time wicketkeepers, let alone a stand-in such as Stewart. Moments such as that can make the difference between winning and losing. Discard a world-class wicketkeeper and you surrender a potent attacking weapon.

With that said, last night's decision was never going to be easy, for England lack not only a genuine all-rounder but the specialists who can doable. As a rule of thumb, their batsmen cannot bowl and their bowlers cannot bat, which makes for a restricted attack and a long tail.

The three men left out of the 13 were Larkins and Bicknell, both discounted through injury, and Morris. Neither of the injured players was likely to feature, anyway, in what at last represented England's strongest available team.

Graham Gooch, the captain, almost tempted providence when he mused on this at practice yesterday. "It's nice to have your top players fit," he said, before striding into the net to bat. Two minutes later, he struck a low, straight drive which clattered into the left heel of Fraser as he walked back to his bowling mark.

Fraser collapsed, clutching the ankle, and Gooch and Micky Stewart converged on him with anxious faces. He was soon able to resume. And his troublesome hip was comfortable enough to ensure that he would play.

AUSTRALIA (from): G A Marsh, M A Taylor, D C Boon, A R Border (capt), D M Jones, M E Waugh, G R J Matthews, I A Healy, C J McDermott, M G Hughes, S A Reid, T M Alderman.

ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (capt), M A Atherton, A J Stewart, A J Lamb, D I Gower, R A Smith, R C Russell, G C Smith, A R C Fraser, D E Malcolm, P C R Tunnell, E E Hemmings, P A J DeFreese.

### Drugs case hearing adjourned

By KEITH MACKLIN

A THREE-MAN medical team at Leeds yesterday heard an explanation from Simon Tuffis, the Bradford Northern rugby league forward, regarding his positive test during a Leeds v Bradford Northern game, and then adjourned the hearing to make further "urgent" enquiries with London-based drug experts.

Rugby league officials declined to give details. However, a Bradford evening newspaper, has carried an article in which Tuffis said he thought that drink had been "spiked" during Christmas, and this was the explanation for the traces of amphetamine stimulant found in his blood.

The league reported that Brendan Tuata, the New Zealand forward of Featherstone Rovers, had been interviewed in connection with his refusal to submit to a test.

Tuata claimed that because of a mix-up he did not give a test in the dressing room area, and when pursued by a medical officer to a players' social club he declined to submit to the test because he did not think it was the proper place.

The board of directors severely reprimanded Tuata, and instructed the Featherstone club that when Rovers players are not selected for testing, Tuata will take a test, in addition to the two players chosen at random.

There were two enforced changes yesterday in the Great Britain team to play France at Perpignan on Sunday. Ian Lucas, the Wigan forward, will replace Karl Harrison, of Hull, who is suspended, and Shaun Edwards, also of Wigan, will replace the injured David Hulme, of Widnes, at scrum half.

Cup comparisons, page 35

### No change means a big change for the Welsh

By GERALD DAVIES

THE Welsh rugby union selectors, in announcing an unchanged team to play Scotland at Murrayfield on February 2, are not giving so much a vote of full confidence as attempting to bring stability to an exceedingly variable national team.

This is the first time since the 1986 season that Wales have given the same personnel a second airing. The team that had lost to England at Twickenham that year went on to beat Scotland.

The time had certainly come to call a halt to all the exits and entrances since then, regardless of how the team had played against England last Saturday. Confidence, which Wales desperately need, is invariably bought with experience.

Continual chopping and

#### Welsh squad

WALES: P H Thomas (North, capt), I C Evans (Llanelli), M G Ring (Cardiff), I S Gabe (Neath), S P Ford (Cardiff), M R Jenkins (Pontypridd), R H Jones (Swansea), G R Williams (Neath), R H Phillips (Neath), P H Kestel (Pontypridd), G G George (Newport), G O Lewis (Neath), G O Lewis (Neath), A J Carter (Newport), P Arnold (Swansea), R Williams (Cardiff), C J Rogers (Neath), D W Evans (Cardiff), A Gwynne (Swansea), M Gwynne (Cardiff), K Morris (Newport), E Lewis (Llanelli).

changing is a reflection not so much on the inabilities of players but on the incompetence of selection. If a player deserves to be chosen for one international, he deserves a few more. If not, it is the selectors, not the players, who are performing badly, have got it wrong and should go.

But Wales had shown a remarkable improvement — and here it must be remembered how low a Welsh base is — in certain key areas, like the

lineout and scrum, where England were meant to wipe the floor with a spindly and youthful Welsh pack. There was, at last, something to work on.

"It is important", Waldron admitted, "to start structuring the team, to form a platform to help the pattern of future selection. We are attempting to build a team which can play any type of game."

There must be flexibility because Scotland, for instance, will present us with a different set of challenges to England.

If the first contest was based primarily on the set-pieces, where England wanted the game played, the second will be played out — as ever at Murrayfield — among the back rows and the midfield. The spotlight will be on Wales here.

### RFU president favours dialogue with players

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Pearey, the president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), called yesterday for a "unanimity of nations" in respect of the amateur regulations as England began investigating the events of last Saturday in Cardiff, when their players and management declined to attend a post-match press conference.

Pearey met Geoff Cooke and Roger Untley, England's manager and coach respectively, on Wednesday night and will talk to the England squad when they gather over the weekend of February 2 and 3. By that time the RFU

hopes a revised code of conduct will be available for inspection.

"I think it's going to take a long time to get on a common wavelength. I don't think the players understand the difficulties, not only within England but within the four home countries, in deciding how to go forward," Pearey said.

He believes there is a need for early action, rather than waiting for the International Board's annual meeting in March, to provide "something the players can do which will produce remuneration they are allowed to keep."

### South African unity talks are suspended

SOUTH African rugby union's attempt for international acceptance hit a new snag yesterday when the sport's rival managing bodies suspended unity talks.

The anti-apartheid South African Rugby Union (SARU) said it had called off talks with the "establishment" South African Rugby Board (SARB) because the board could not "understand the ethos of non-racism."

Relations hit a new low, largely because of the SARB's plans to invite the Soviet Union and possibly Romania to tour later this year.

### Call for TV to edit close-ups

By DENNIS SHAW

TELEVISION companies will be asked by the football authorities to refrain from showing close-ups of players spitting or swearing when games are being screened. It is one of the proposals which will emerge from the series of six meetings of referees, players, managers and league and FA officials, the second of which was held at Aston Villa yesterday.

By highlighting such unsavoury moments it was felt that television could aid the progress being made in terms of improving the image of the game. Although selling television rights for huge fees

had brought an attendant loss of control, the meeting felt that the television companies could be asked to co-operate.

Vic Callow, the Birmingham-based referee, who recently sent off Paul Gascoigne, of Tottenham Hotspur, during a live television game for foul and abusive language, was a staunch supporter of the principle. "I believe that behaviour standards both on the field in terms of reduced dissent and on the terraces has improved very considerably," Callow said. Consequently, it seems to me to be unfortunate when an isolated incident of a

player cursing himself when he has just missed a scoring chance or maybe spitting when he believes he is off-camera, should be the subject of a close-up.

"It is down to what television companies feel that people want relayed into their sitting room. Sometimes a referee can be criticised by viewers for not having picked up a case of a player swearing. What the television hasn't shown is that the ref was a long way away at that time."

Eddie Plumley, the chief executive of Watford and chairman of the Football League Executive Staff Association, said that both the clubs and the league and the FA "received lots of flak from the public" for televised close-ups of players caught in off-guard moments in this way.

The purpose of the meetings, which continue in Leicester, London, Bristol and Leeds, is to attempt to obtain greater consistency in refereeing as a result of the mandate from the game's governing body. Fifa, that players committing a deliberate foul to prevent a goal should be sent off.

The protracted FA Cup third round tie between Nottingham Forest and Crystal Palace was postponed for a third time last night because of fog. The two sides, who have already drawn twice, will try again on Monday.

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### Glorious triviality of the Super Bowl

FROM SIMON BARNES  
IN TAMPA, FLORIDA



WEIRD vibes in Florida. The Super Bowl is supposed to be an annual week of dementia: a week for revelling in all the clichés of national identity. America tries to out-America itself, and every time it succeeds. It is somewhere between ghastly and glorious. The Super Bowl is wildly over the top, but it is seasoned with the humanising trait of self-mockery. At heart, the Super Bowl knows it is a glorious nonsense.

It is all very different this year. This year we have the Sombre Bowl. Even now, the game could be cancelled. "We expect to play Sunday's Super Bowl game as planned," a National Football League spokesman said. "But we will take events in the Middle East into account to kick-off." Probably we will have our football game: we just won't be allowed to enjoy it very much.

(2,000 people, \$500,000 cost) tonight has been cancelled. Sport is used to taking itself with an absurdly high degree of seriousness. But you can't talk about "life-or-death situations on fourth down plays", not at this Super Bowl.

In short, this game between the New York Giants and the Buffalo Bills is something not all that far from a national embarrassment. This must, after all, be the least appropriate time in recent history for a wild week of jingoistic sporting jollity. It is not a week in which reporters feel in the mood for asking quarterbacks:

"If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?"

It is not just that sport is trivial compared to total war. There is additional embarrassment because sport is, in a sense, a war. Team sports are essentially war games, and all match reports abound with warlike metaphors: big guns, retreats, death-or-glory charges. American football is the ultimate war game. Its twin obsessions are territory and violent individual confrontation. It is the most brutal team game ever devised: a seething, flamboyant, violent metaphor of total war.

It is not exactly what the world needs right now. This is rendered still more awkward because the massiveness of the occasion makes it a tempting target for terrorism. There was even a film once about a Palestinian capturing the Goodyear blimp at a Super Bowl. Naturally, the security is oppressive. At the big mass press conference at Tampa Stadium on Tuesday, tra-

ditionally an easy-going, meet-the-boys occasion, every media person was searched with metal-detectors.

The spectators will all go through a metal-detector gate on game day. They will be forbidden to take cameras, radios and practically anything else. There are restrictions on air traffic within a five-mile radius of the stadium. The Super Bowl, a week of traditional licence, traditional excess, traditional fizzy good cheer, has done the impossible. It has become a downbeat, almost a run-of-the-mill sporting contest.

There is a close link in America between sport and patriotism. Just about every big sporting occasion has a colour party, normally a soldier, a sailor and an airman, which brings in the Stars and Stripes. There is also a solo singer who belts out *The Star-Spangled Banner* unaccompanied, and the spectators whoop when he or she gets to the high, complicated twiddle

bits at the end. This is hand-on-heart America in action.

The national games of this country, baseball and football, are utterly American. To play them anywhere in the world is the equivalent of running the Stars and Stripes up a flagpole.

To play them here is nothing less than an assertion of national identity.

This is not the case with British games: cricket is the game of the former Empire; soccer is the game of the world. Whether we like it or not, these games are internationalist. American sports are nationalist through and through.

But for the Americans in the Gulf, there are, I imagine, no ambiguities of feeling. These people are in absolutely no danger of taking sport too seriously. They can see, with unspeakable clarity, that sport is the most trivial matter in the world. No wonder they value it.

"I remember how we really